



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESS
JOURNALS + DIGITAL PUBLISHING



16 May—15 August 2006

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Source: *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 1 (Autumn 2006), pp. 196-229

Published by: [University of California Press](#) on behalf of the [Institute for Palestine Studies](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jps.2006.36.1.196>

Accessed: 03/03/2015 10:57

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CHRONOLOGY

16 MAY-15 AUGUST 2006

COMPILED BY MICHELE K. ESPOSITO

This section is part eighty-four of a chronology begun in JPS 13, no. 3 (Spring 1984). Chronology dates reflect Eastern Standard Time (EST). For a more comprehensive overview of events related to the al-Aqsa intifada and of regional and international developments related to the peace process, see the Quarterly Update on Conflict and Diplomacy in this issue.

16 MAY

As the quarter opens, the **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** continue **Operation Southern Arrow**, with heavy shelling and air strikes on Gaza in response to Palestinian rocket fire (at a rate of 10 Israeli strikes per 1 Palestinian rocket attack) and tight restrictions on Gaza's crossings (see Quarterly Update for details). The **IDF** also continues to separate the n. and s. West Bank by closing (since 4/21) the Zatar checkpoint s. of Nablus and to restrict movement into and out of the n. Jordan Valley. Meanwhile, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza continue to suffer severe economic shortages due to the U.S.- and Israeli-led economic sanctions on the **Hamas-led Palestinian Authority (PA)** that have prevented the PA from paying government workers' salaries for 2 mos. Today, the **IDF** patrols in 'Araba nr. Jenin, firing on residential areas; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Nablus. **Islamic Jihad** fires its 2d **Grad rocket** fr. Gaza toward Ashqelon, damaging a poultry farm but causing no injuries (see 3/28, 4/21). A **Hamas mbr.** is killed in a drive-by shooting in Gaza City; no group claims responsibility. (MM 5/16; NYT, PCHR 5/18)

17 MAY

The **IDF** opens the Qarni crossing (closed 5/13) for exports only but closes the Sufa crossing; sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Nablus in a predawn raid, besieging a Palestinian house, fatally shooting 2 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** in an hrs.-long exchange of gunfire, wounding and arresting a 3d, and causing a **78-yr.-old Palestinian bystander** to suffer a fatal heart attack, occupying a home as

an observation post; conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp (r.c.) nr. Nablus, Jenin town and r.c. and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah. The **PA Interior Min.** begins deploying **Interior M Said Siyam's** new 3,000-mbr. volunteer security force, the **Executive Support Force (ESF)**, in Gaza. The ESF is made up of members of the Palestinian resistance (largely from **Hamas**, around one-sixth from the **Popular Resistance Comms. [PRCs]**). For the 2d day, a **Hamas mbr.** is killed in a drive-by shooting in Gaza City; no group claims responsibility. In Ramallah, **100s of government workers** protest the **PA's** failure to pay wages. **Discount Bank**, the last Israeli bank doing business with the **PA**, announces that it will sever its ties with Palestinian banks in 3-6 mos. (HA, MM, Palestine Media Center 5/17; JP, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 5/18; HA, NYT 5/19; HJ, MA 5/20 in WNC 5/21; PCHR 5/25)

18 MAY

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, and Tulkarm, firing on residential areas. **Palestinians** fire 6 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Unidentified Palestinians** fire on a Jewish settler vehicle nr. Tapuach settlement, injuring 2 Jewish settlers. In Tulkarm, **Fatah gunmen** surround a building where **PA Dep. PM Nasir al-Sha'ir (Change and Reform)** is meeting with the Tulkarm governor, forcing the mtg. to end, and Sha'ir to leave under police escort. Some **2,000 Fatah mbrs.** parade through Gaza City in a show of force in reaction to the deployment of the Interior Min.'s predominantly Hamas **ESF**. The **National and Islamic Higher**

Comm. for the Follow-up of the Intifada (NIHC) sponsors a rally in Gaza calling for the immediate dissolution of the new **ESF**, activation of the **PA security forces** to prevent lawlessness, and holding of national unity talks. Late in the evening, **Hamas, Fatah gunmen** exchange fire outside the **Palestinian Council (PC)** building in Gaza City, leaving 2 Fatah mbrs., 1 Hamas mbr. wounded. (HA, MM, XIN 5/18; MM 5/19; HJ 5/20 in WNC 5/21; PCHR 5/25)

19 MAY

The **IDF** conducts major arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (searching a mosque, firing on residential areas, seriously wounding 1 Palestinian); also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jenin, Ramallah. In Gaza City, **PA police, Fatah mbrs.** exchange fire with **ESF forces**, leaving 2 police officers, 1 Fatah mbr., 1 Hamas mbr. wounded. **Palestinian customs officials** detain **Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri** as he enters Gaza at the Rafah crossing after EU monitors discover he is trying to smuggle in \$815,000 in Euros, confiscate the money; anyone entering Gaza must declare sums over \$2,000. (IMEMC, MM, WP, XIN 5/19; HA, JAZ, NYT, WP, WT 5/20; PCHR 5/25)

20 MAY

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a moving car in Gaza, assassinating **senior Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Muhammad Dadu**, killing 3 bystanders and wounding 4; patrols in Balata r.c. late in the evening, fatally shooting a **Palestinian woman** who comes to her window to observe events; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Tulkarm town and r.c., nr. Hebron, Jenin. Meanwhile, a **bomb** explodes at the **PA General Intelligence Service (GIS)** offices in Gaza, seriously wounding **GIS chief Tariq Abu Rajab** in an apparent assassination attempt, killing his **bodyguard**, wounding 8 others (unidentified gunmen shot, wounded a bodyguard outside Abu Rajab's home on 5/14); **PA security forces** taking the wounded to the hospital fire fr. the windows of their cars to clear the streets; mbrs. of the **ESF**, believing themselves under attack, fire toward the convoy, causing no injuries. No group takes responsibility for the bombing; **PA PM Ismail Haniyeh** calls for an investigation. In response to the attempt on Abu Rajab's life, a group calling

itself the **Fatah Protection Unit** demands that **PA Pres. Mahmud Abbas** dismiss the Hamas-led government and call new elections, that the Interior Min. disband the **ESF**. **Unidentified Palestinian gunmen** fire on the home of **Interior Min. spokesman Khalid Abu Hilal**, causing damage but no injuries. (JAZ, PNN 5/20; MENA, PSCT, VOI 5/20 in WNC 5/21; NYT, WP, WT 5/21; AFP, *Daily Star*, HA, MM 5/22; PCHR 5/25)

21 MAY

The **IDF** opens Gaza's Sufa commercial crossing (closed since 5/17); shells Bayt Hanun, Bayt Lahiya, injuring a 12-yr.-old Palestinian; sends troops into Hebron to surround the Polytechnic University campus, firing percussion grenades, tear gas and arresting 7 students; sends undercover units into Tamun nr. Jenin in a car with Palestinian license plates to arrest 3 Palestinians; sends troops into Tubas nr. Jenin, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Nablus; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Nablus. **Israeli DM Amir Peretz** authorizes the expansion of the "jurisdictional area" of 4 West Bank **Jewish settlements**, often the prelude to construction of new settlement neighborhoods: Givat Ze'ev nr. Jerusalem (to be expanded by 60 dunum [d.; 4 d. = 1 acre].); Beitar Ilit nr. Bethlehem (to be expanded by 400 d.); Oranit, just over the Green Line nr. Kefar Saba; Maskiyot, in the Jordan Valley, where Israel plans to relocate the 40 settlers evacuated fr. Shirat Hayam settlement in Gaza. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on nr. Hebron attack Palestinian school children being escorted to school by the IDF, injuring 2. **PA security forces** find, dismantle a 150-lb roadside bomb planted along the motorcade route of **Internal Security Service dir. gen. Rashid Abu Shibak**, who was appointed by **Abbas** to the new position on 4/6 in a bid to wrest control of the security forces away fr. Interior M **Siyam**; no group takes responsibility, but **Fatah officials** hint that **Hamas** is to blame, note that the **PRCs** have previously fired on his home. In reaction, **100s of Fatah mbrs.** rally in Gaza City in support of the PA security forces, offering to volunteer their services to counterbalance Siyam's new volunteer force. Overnight, a previously unknown group calling itself the **al-Qa'ida Organization of the State of Palestine** claims responsibility for the 5/20 attack on **Abu Rajab** in a statement

on the Internet. (MM, NYT 5/22; OCHA 5/24; see also MA 5/20 in WNC 5/21; PCHR, PNN 5/25)

22 MAY

The **IDF** detains **Change and Reform PC mbrs. Khalid Abu 'Arafa, Ahmad Abu Atun, Muhammad Abu Tir** for participating in a public demonstration at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount on 5/19 to urge people to donate money to the PA government, bars them fr. entering the holy site for 2 wks.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Ramallah. The **High Court of Israel** also approves a segment of the separation wall in Ramallah that will isolate at least 3,900 d. of Palestinian land and uproot 1,100 olive trees. **Fatah and Hamas activists**, mbrs. of the predominately Hamas **ESF** and the predominantly Fatah **PA Preventive Security Forces (PSF)** exchange fire nr. the PC headquarters in Gaza City, killing the **Jordanian amb.'s driver**, wounding 11 Palestinians in the crossfire; it is unclear who shot first and why. **Fatah, Hamas** gunmen (not mbrs. of the security forces) also clash in Khan Yunis, leaving **1 Fatah mbr.** dead; Hamas says the incident was sparked by Fatah mbrs. attempting to kidnap 2 of its men, whereas Fatah says it began when Hamas mbrs. ambushed a Fatah vehicle. (AFP, HA 5/22; AFP, NYT, WP, WT 5/23; PCHR 5/25)

23 MAY

The **IDF** sends bulldozers 300 m into central Gaza to level land along the border; sends troops into Nablus, firing tear gas at Palestinian children on their way home fr. school; sends troops into Tulkarm to search a car, confiscate a computer; patrols in Kafr Dan nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids in and around Hebron and Ramallah (capturing **Izzeddine al-Qassam Brigades West Bank head Ibrahim Hamid**), in Jericho, and nr. Qalqilya. An **Israeli court** rejects an appeal by East Jerusalem Palestinians challenging the route of the **separation wall** around Ma'ale Adumim, determining that the DMin. has given "adequate consideration of the barrier's impact on residents while balancing the security needs of Israeli citizens." (AFP, MM 5/23; NYT, WP, WT 5/24; PCHR 5/25)

24 MAY

The **IDF** sends undercover units into Ramallah's central shopping district, where they arrest **Islamic Jihad's Qalqilya military leader Muhammad Shubaki**; when the unit is confronted by armed militants and stone-throwing protesters, the IDF sends in uniformed reinforcements that clash with the Palestinians, leaving **1 PA General Intelligence officer, 3 bystanders** dead, at least 35 Palestinians and 1 IDF soldier wounded. The **IDF** also sends bulldozers, tanks, jeeps 200 m inside the Gaza border nr. Bureij r.c. to level land for ongoing construction of a cement wall along the n. Gaza border; raids the municipal offices in Maithalun nr. Jenin, removes the Palestinian flag fr. the building, fires tear gas; patrols in Farkha nr. Nablus (firing on residential areas), Kafr Dan; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Bethlehem, and nr. Hebron, Jenin. In central Gaza, **PSF chief for central Gaza Nabil Hudud** dies when a bomb rigged to his car explodes; no group claims responsibility; **Fatah and Hamas gunmen**, however, exchange fire outside Gaza's Shifa Hospital after Hudud's body is brought in. In Khan Yunis, **unidentified gunmen** kidnap, shoot **3 Hamas mbrs.**, killing 1; no group claims responsibility; Hamas accuses the **PA security forces**. (AFP, *Guardian*, HA, NYT, PCHR, Palestine Monitor [Internet], WP 5/25; OCHA, PCHR 6/1)

25 MAY

The **IDF** continues bulldozing operations begun on 5/24, just inside the Gaza border nr. Bureij r.c.; sends troops into Tulkarm to raid the Social Sport Club, confiscating computers, files, photos and sealing the venue; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus and nr. Hebron, Tulkarm. In response to the IDF killing of 4 Palestinians in Ramallah on 4/24, **al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (AMB) mbrs.** fire **2 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Fatah and PA security forces** exchange fire with **Hamas mbrs.** following the funeral for **Hudud** in Gaza City, leaving **1 PA security officer** dead, several wounded. (XIN 5/25; WP 5/26; OCHA, PCHR 6/1)

26 MAY

The **IDF** shuts Gaza's Sufa commercial crossing for 2 days; shells n. Gaza, killing a

Palestinian farmer, wounding a 2d Palestinian in Bayt Lahiya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Qalqilya, and in Hebron, Qabatya, and Yamun nr. Jenin. In n. Gaza, **3 Palestinian teenagers** are killed, 3 Palestinians are wounded when they accidentally detonate unexploded **IDF** ordnance. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries he received when the **IDF** fired on his car nr. Nablus on 4/15. (WP, WT 5/27; OCHA, PCHR 6/1)

In Sidon, Lebanon, **senior Islamic Jihad official Mahmud Majzub, his brother** are killed when a bomb in their car explodes. **Israel** denies responsibility. (MM 5/26; NYT 5/27; MM 5/30; SFR 6/21)

27 MAY

The **IDF** send undercover units into Qifin nr. Tulkarm, firing on residential areas; patrols in Bayt Ta'mar nr. Bethlehem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus. In Jerusalem's Old City, **2 East Jerusalem Palestinians** stab, lightly wound an Israeli. (WP, WT 5/28; PCHR 6/1; HA 7/4)

28 MAY

The **IDF** reopens Gaza's Sufa crossing; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron and nr. Bethlehem, Tulkarm. (OCHA, PCHR 6/1)

Unidentified militants in s. Lebanon (thought to be **Hizballah mbrs.** retaliating on behalf of Islamic Jihad for the suspected Israeli assassination of a senior Islamic Jihad mbr. on 5/26) fire Katyusha rockets across the border at an **IDF** post, seriously injuring 1 **IDF** soldier. The **IDF** makes air strikes on **2 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC)** posts, on a weapons depot nr. the Syrian border in the Biqa' Valley and in s. Beirut, killing **1 PFLP-GC mbr.**, wounding at least 5. Later, **Hizballah** fires mortars, rockets toward at least 10 **IDF** outposts on the n. Israel border, wounding 1 **IDF** soldier; the **IDF** fires artillery, conducts air strikes on **Hizballah** targets in s. Lebanon, killing at least **1 Hizballah mbr.**, wounding 2 civilians; **Hizballah** fires several rockets into n. Israel, causing no damage or injuries. The **UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)** brokers a cease-fire. (IFM, NYT, WP, WT 5/29; MM 5/30; NYT 6/1; MM 6/2)

29 MAY

During the day, the **IDF** sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Qalqilya to arrest 3 Palestinians; patrols in Aida r.c. nr. Bethlehem; issues military orders seizing 30 d. of Palestinian agricultural land nr. Hebron. Late in the evening, the **IDF** for the 1st time since the Gaza disengagement makes a major ground incursion into n. Gaza to prevent rocket fire, sending undercover troops to ambush and kill **3 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** nr. the fmr. settlement of Dugit, immediately withdrawing to Israel afterward; minutes after the withdrawal an **IDF** helicopter fires missiles on the same area, wounding 4 Palestinian medics, 2 journalists covering the incident; soon after, helicopters fire on the area a 2d time, killing a **PA security officer** checking the area, wounding a bystander. The **IDF** also conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in al-Bireh (searching the home of **Change and Reform mbr. and PC dep. secy. 'Aziz Kayid**, confiscating computer disks) and nr. Bethlehem, Qalqilya; sends undercover units into Balata r.c. (exchanging fire with wanted Palestinians, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding 4) and Qabatya (firing on 4 wanted Palestinians without warning, assassinating **Islamic Jihad mbr. Tariq Zakarna**, wounding 3). (MM, NYT, WT 5/30; PCHR 6/1)

30 MAY

The **IDF** shells n. Gaza, wounding a 7-yr.-old Palestinian in Um al-Nasser nr. Bayt Lahiya; demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** nr. Nablus for being built without permits; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus and in Balata r.c. (clashing with local gunmen, wounding 2), Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah, Qabatya, Qalqilya; razes 2 poultry farms in Walaja nr. Bethlehem for construction of the **separation wall**. The **High Court of Israel** approves the route of a wall segment around Shavei Shomron settlement northwest of Nablus that will require confiscating 53 d. of Palestinian land, uprooting 350 olive trees. In Nablus, **AMB gunmen** kill **2 Palestinians** suspected of collaborating with Israel in the assassination of 2 **AMB mbrs.** in 3/06. In Ramallah, **1,000s of mbrs. of the PA Government Employees Union** (predominantly Fatah) march in protest of the PA's failure to pay salaries. (MM 5/30; NYT, PCHR 5/31; PCHR 6/8)

31 MAY

Palestinians fire a rocket fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting a house about 100 yds. fr. the Sederot home of Israeli DM **Peretz**, causing damage but no injuries. The **IDF** responds with artillery fire on n. Gaza, wounding 1 Palestinian outside his Bayt Lahiya home. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home**, surrounding structures nr. Hebron for being built without permits; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c., Qalandia r.c. nr. Ramallah, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem. (MM 5/31; NYT, PCHR 6/1; PCHR 6/8)

1 JUNE

The **IDF** closes Gaza's Sufa and Qarni crossings for 3 days for the Shavuot holidays; shells the n. Gaza coast fr. the sea, wounding 2 Palestinian teenagers; fires on residential areas of Tulkarm town and r.c.; raids a hospital in Nablus, arresting a Palestinian being treated in the intensive care unit. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai attack Palestinians, vandalize homes in Hebron. In Gaza City, **1 PA security force officer** is killed, 7 Palestinians are wounded in a clash btwn. **Fatah** and **Hamas** mbrs. Separately, some **3,000 PA security force officers** rally outside the PC headquarters in Gaza City, firing automatic rifles in the air and vandalizing the building in one of the largest protests to date over the government's failure to pay civil service wages for 3 mos. (NYT, WP, WT 5/2; OCHA 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

2 JUNE

The **IDF** fatally shoots **2 Egyptian border guards** who cross the Israeli border into the Negev, while a 3d Egyptian escapes; Israel claims that the men intentionally crossed the border and fired on IDF troops in a predawn raid; Egypt claims the men accidentally strayed across the border and the IDF fired first. The **IDF** also patrols in the Old City of Nablus, surrounding r.c.s; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and nr. Jenin, Ramallah. (HA, MM 6/2; NYT, WP 6/3; MENA 6/3 in WNC 6/4; PCHR 6/8)

3 JUNE

The **IDF** shells n. Gaza, wounding 2 Palestinians inside their Jabaliya r.c. home and a Palestinian in Um al-Nasser; patrols in

al-Fara' r.c. nr. Jenin, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops; fires on residential areas of Tulkarm town and r.c., wounding a 60-yr.-old Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron and in Balata r.c., Jenin town and r.c., Nablus. (PCHR 6/8)

4 JUNE

The **IDF** reopens Sufa and Qarni crossings; patrols in Qarawat Bani Hassan nr. Nablus and Bidiyya nr. Nablus, conducting random ID checks; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c. and nr. Bidiyya, Hebron, Ramallah; issues military orders confiscating 895 d. of land nr. Qalqilya for "security purposes." Late in the evening, **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba, accompanied by 10 **IDF** soldiers, raid 2 Palestinian homes in Hebron, beating the residents, setting fire to at least 30 olive trees, preventing firemen fr. reaching the area. In Gaza City and Khan Yunis, **Fatah, Hamas gunmen** trade fire, leaving **3 gunmen** and **1 bystander** dead. (MM, WP 6/5; NYT 6/6; OCHA 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

5 JUNE

Overnight, a **senior mbr. of Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** is killed in Jabaliya r.c. when a large bomb goes off nr. his home; no group takes responsibility. The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car driving in n. Gaza, assassinating **PRC mbrs. Imad Asaliyya, Majdi Hammad**, wounding 2 PRC mbrs. in the car, 2 bystanders; sends bulldozers, tanks 200 m into Gaza nr. Bureij r.c. to level land for the construction of a cement wall along the n. Gaza border; sends an undercover unit into 'Anabta nr. Tulkarm in a car with Palestinian license plates to raid a café and arrest 11 Palestinians; demolishes **2 Palestinian homes** nr. Jenin, 1 nr. Jericho, 1 nr. Nablus; patrols in Maithalun, stopping Palestinians for random ID checks; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Tulkarm, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin (firing on residential areas); issues military orders confiscating 600 d. of Palestinian land s. of Tulkarm, isolated btwn. the **separation wall** and the Green Line, for "security purposes"; accompanies an Israeli Archaeological Authority team into Battir nr. Bethlehem to conduct a test dig in the center of the village in search of Jewish historical remains. **Gunmen affiliated with Hamas** raid a Palestinian TV station in Khan Yunis,

damage equipment, accusing the station of supporting Fatah at Hamas's expense; the **Hamas leadership** denies the attack was authorized by the group. (MM 6/5; NYT 6/6; OCHA 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

6 JUNE

Palestinians fire 6 rockets fr. Gaza into Sederot, hitting 1 house, lightly wounding 1 Israeli; the **IDF** shells n. Gaza in response, causing no injuries. The **IDF** also sends bulldozers, tanks 200 m into Gaza nr. Bureij r.c. for a 2d day to level land; steps up mock air raids over Gaza; makes an air strike on a **PRC** training site outside Gaza City and 5 uninhabited sites in n. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries; patrols in Tubas, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 2; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, nr. Hebron. A mortar attack by **suspected Hamas mbrs.** on the **PSF** headquarters in Gaza City wounds 4 **PSF** officers and 2 janitors. (MM 6/6; MM, OCHA, WP 6/7; PCHR 6/8)

7 JUNE

The **IDF** fires shells at 3 Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel fr. Gaza, killing 2 **Palestinians** and wounding 1, also killing a **PA security officer** at a post nearby and wounding 5 bystanders (including a 2d security officer); patrols in Fahma and Kafr Ra'i nr. Jenin; conducts late night arrest raids, house searches in Hebron (firing percussion grenades) and in and around Nablus, Tulkarm. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize several Palestinian homes in Hebron, beat a Palestinian. (MM, PCHR, WP 6/8; PCHR 6/15)

8 JUNE

The **IDF** makes an air strike on a **PRC** site at the fmr. Rafiah Yam settlement nr. Rafah, assassinating **PA Interior Min. inspector gen., ESF cmdr., and PRC leader Jamal Abu Samhadana, 3 bodyguards**, wounding 10 **PRC** mbrs. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids in and around Jenin, Nablus. **Palestinians** fire 5 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; the **IDF** responds by shelling n. Gaza, causing no injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Gush Etzion attack a Palestinian s. of Bethlehem. (MM, NYT, WP 6/9; IFM 6/11; MM 6/12; PCHR 6/15)

9 JUNE

After **Palestinians** fire 5 rockets into Israel (causing no damage or injuries), the **IDF** shells n. Gaza from land, sea, and air, hitting the Bayt Lahiya beach where families are picnicking, killing at least 8 **Palestinians**, wounding 32; the **IDF** suspends shelling, orders an investigation; **Hamas's Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** say they would end their 16-mo. cease-fire to avenge the deaths. The **IDF** also makes air strikes on a car driven in n. Gaza by **PRC** mbrs. who allegedly had just fired a rocket into Israel, killing 3 **PRC men**; on a car driven by **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. in Jabaliya r.c. who allegedly were on their way to launch a rocket, wounding 2; on 2 cars driven by **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** mbrs. in Gaza City, wounding 3. In addition, the **IDF** patrols in Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, Tulkarm. In Gaza City, **10,000s of Palestinians** attend the funeral of **PRC** leader Samhadana, assassinated on 6/8. (NYT, WP 6/10; IFM 6/11; MM, NYT 6/12; MM 6/14; PCHR 6/15; MM 6/16; OCHA 6/21; MA 6/25 in WNC 6/26)

10 JUNE

In retaliation for the death of 8 Palestinians in **IDF** shelling of the Gaza beach on 6/9, **Hamas mbrs.** fire at least 15 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Mbrs. of the **AMB-Nablus faction** kidnap an American tourist in the city, thinking he is Israeli; hold him for several hours, demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange, but free him when they realize he is not Israeli. Meanwhile, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dahaysha r.c., Jenin and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah (NYT, WP 6/11; PCHR 6/15)

11 JUNE

Hamas, Islamic Jihad fire some 30 rockets fr. Gaza into Israel, some of which hit a college campus nr. Sederot (wounding 4 Israelis) and a house (causing damage but no injuries). The **IDF**, which has halted artillery fire until an investigation of the 6/9 strike that killed 8 Palestinians is completed (the **IDF** now argues that an errant Palestinian rocket was to blame), responds with air strikes on n. Gaza, hitting a group of **Hamas** mbrs. preparing to fire a rocket nr. Bayt Lahiya (killing 2 **Hamas** mbrs.)

and targeting a car driven by Hamas mbrs. (wounding 3 bystanders). An **Islamic Jihad mbr.** is reportedly killed when a rocket he is preparing to fire explodes. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in Jenin town and r.c., nr. Bethlehem; begins uprooting Palestinian trees, leveling agricultural land s. of Qalqilya for a new settler bypass road between Oranit and Sha'are Tikva settlements. A **Hamas mbr.** dies of injuries received in clashes with PA security officers on 6/1. (IFM, REU 6/11; NYT, WP 6/12; PCHR 6/15; OCHA 6/21)

12 JUNE

The **IDF** sends undercover units into Tulkarm in a car with Palestinian license plates to arrest a wanted Palestinian; later sends a 2d undercover unit into Tulkarm that is intercepted by PA security forces, withdraws after an exchange of fire, causing no injuries; sends undercover units into Jenin, who exchange fire with local gunmen, withdraw under IDF support, without making any arrests; demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Jenin next to the **separation wall**; patrols in Tubas, firing on residential areas; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, Tulkarm and in Aida r.c., al-Fara'a r.c. (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops). In Rafah, at least **100 Fatah, Hamas gunmen** clash, leaving **1 Hamas mbr.** and **1 Palestinian bystander** dead and 15 Palestinians wounded, with Hamas firing antitank weapons and rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at the local **PSF** headquarters. (Hamas says that Fatah gunmen fired on a Hamas funeral procession, precipitating the clash, while Fatah says that Hamas mbrs. in the procession fired first on the PSF headquarters along the route.) Soon after, **100s of Fatah-dominated PA security forces** and **AMB mbrs.** reacting to the Gaza violence rampage through Ramallah, raiding, firing on, vandalizing, setting fire to the PC building and the cabinet headquarters in a show of force against **Hamas**. Later, **Fatah gunmen** kidnap **Change and Reform PC mbr. Khalil Rabei**, set fire to his Ramallah office; Rabei is freed hrs. later at **Abbas's** intervention; **7 other Change and Reform PC mbrs.** take refuge in the Muqata'a under Abbas's protection. **Abbas** declares a state of emergency and curfew. Inside Israel, **Israeli police** arrest 7 Palestinians in Shafa 'Amr suspected in the 8/4/05 killing of an IDF soldier who boarded a bus in the town and opened fire, killing 4 Pales-

tinians before being beaten to death. In addition, unknown assailants vandalize the **Orthodox Christian Church** in Majdal nr. Nazareth; the recently refurbished church, which tends to a growing Russian Orthodox population, has been threatened on several occasions by local right-wing Jews. (MM, NYT, WP, WT 6/13; PCHR 6/15)

13 JUNE

Overnight, **10,000s of Hamas supporters** rally outside the PC building in Ramallah in solidarity with the Hamas-led government. During the day, the **IDF** launches an air strike at a minibus traveling in downtown Gaza City, assassinating **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** (Shawqi al-Saiqali, Hamad Wadiya); 7 minutes later, as medics and crowds gather at the scene, the IDF makes a 2d air strike on the site, killing **4 Palestinian medics, 5 Palestinian bystanders**, wounding 32; **IDF chief of staff Dan Halutz** says, "We are saddened by the deaths of these innocent Palestinians but hold absolutely no responsibility for them." The **IDF** also occupies a Palestinian home in Jenin as a sniper post, then assassinates **AMB mbr. Muhammad al-Wahish** with a bullet to the chest (the target of an assassination attempt earlier in 2006); fires across the border on a funeral procession in Jabaliya r.c., wounding 3 Palestinian teenagers; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus. In addition, the **IDF** claims that its investigation of the 6/9 explosion on the Bayt Lahiya beach that killed 8 Palestinians was not caused by Israeli fire but by a Palestinian land mine; Palestinians and a **Human Rights Watch** senior military analyst dispute this based on the crater pattern, shrapnel at the scene, injuries of the wounded. **Jewish settlers** fr. Avraham Avino settlement vandalize several Palestinian homes in Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on settlement beat several Palestinian farmers working their fields in Yatta, outside Hebron, pouring toxic substances onto their agricultural land, setting fire to 1,500 sq. m. of crops. In Nablus, **Hamas mbrs.** rally against **Fatah** rampages in Ramallah on 6/12. (MM, NYT, PCHR 6/13; IFM, NYT, WP, WT 6/14; PCHR 6/15; MM 6/16; *Guardian*, HA, *Independent* 6/17; OCHA, REU 6/21)

A **Lebanese, Mahmud Rafih**, confesses to running a network for **Mossad**, killing a senior **Islamic Jihad mbr.** on 5/26. (WP 6/14; MM 6/16; XIN 6/17; MM 6/20; SFR 6/21)

14 JUNE

The **IDF** patrols in Kafr Haris, Tubas (firing on residential areas); conducts arrest raids, house searches in 'Askar r.c. nr. Nablus, al-Til nr. Tulkarm and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Islamic Jihad** fires 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In Ramallah, **10s of PA employees** aligned with **Fatah** temporarily take over the PC building, demanding salaries. After **Hamas mbrs.** shoot, wound a **PSF officer** in Khan Yunis, **Fatah mbrs.** assassinate a **senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbr.** (MM 6/14; MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/15; PCHR 6/22)

15 JUNE

After suspending its unilateral cease-fire on 6/9, **Hamas** says it will halt all fire for 7 days; if Israel stops targeting Palestinian civilians during that period, it will extend the cease-fire and lobby other factions to do the same. The **IDF** kills 3 **Palestinian militants** allegedly planting explosives nr. the border fence in central Gaza; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus. **Islamic Jihad** fires at least 5 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, wounding 3 Israelis, damaging a factory building in Sederot. (MM 6/15; NYT, WP, WT 6/16; OCHA 6/21; PCHR 6/22)

16 JUNE

The **IDF** makes an air strike on Islamic Jihad mbrs. in Gaza who fired rockets into Israel (no damage or injuries), killing **Islamic Jihad mbrs. Habib Ashur and Imad Yasin**, wounding several bystanders; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Nablus, and nr. Jenin, Ramallah; bulldozes Palestinian agricultural land nr. Shavei Shomron settlement. (PNN, WT 6/17; PCHR 6/22)

17 JUNE

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, Nablus. Dozens of **Jewish settlers** escorted by the **IDF** march through Palestinian areas of Hebron, attacking Palestinians and vandalizing property. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ma'on sneak into a Palestinian village nr. Hebron, steal a donkey. (HA 6/17; PCHR 6/22)

18 JUNE

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, Nablus, in Bethlehem, and nr. Hebron; raids a hospital and al-Quds Open University campus nr. Hebron, holding medical personnel and students for ID checks; sends troops into Tubas, stopping and searching a PA security force vehicle, confiscating the vehicle but releasing the 2 officers. **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no injuries but temporarily cutting power to parts of Sederot. In an apparent assassination attempt, **Fatah-affiliated PSF mbrs.** fr. Khan Yunis ambush, fire on a car nr. Rafah driven by **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades cmdr. Ala' Radwan**, who apparently is unharmed; Fatah, Hamas officials meet to discuss the incident. (HA 6/19; OSC 6/19 in WNC 6/20; NYT 6/20; PCHR 6/22)

19 JUNE

The **IDF** announces that it will begin implementing a new policy of attacking **Hamas** targets for each Palestinian rocket strike, regardless of what group is responsible for the fire; makes a helicopter air strike on a foundry in Gaza City allegedly used to build rockets, causing no injuries; demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Ramallah; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Dura, nr. Jenin and Tulkarm, and in and around Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah. **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. An **unidentified Palestinian gunman** fires on a Jewish settler bus nr. Ofra settlement n. of Jerusalem, lightly wounding 1 woman. **Jewish settlers** fr. Beit Hadasah in Hebron vandalizes several Palestinian homes, beat a 60-yr-old Palestinian. **Hamas mbrs.** retaliating for the attempted assassination of 1 of their mbrs. on 6/18 fire grenades, rifles at a **PSF** office in Khan Yunis, causing no injuries. Meanwhile, **Fatah, Hamas** mbrs. sign a "national honor document" in Ramallah, pledging to avoid clashes and to resolve their disputes through negotiation. (HA, XIN 6/19; MA 6/19, 6/22 in WNC 6/23; WP 6/20; PCHR 6/22)

20 JUNE

Israel's DM **Peretz**, **fmr. Israeli DM and current Dep. PM and Transportation M Shaul Mofaz** approve Israeli defense contacts with PA municipal officials and "PA functionaries not associated with **Hamas** on

issues deemed essential by both sides," but not with PA Ms or dir. gens. of the ministries. **Israeli DMin. officials** acknowledge that **Hamas** has been observing the cease-fire it announced on 6/15. The **IDF** makes an air strike on a car with 3 **AMB** mbrs. driving in central Gaza City, but the men escape before the rocket hits; 3 **Palestinian children** (ages 5, 6, 16) are killed, 2 **AMB** mbrs. and 13 bystanders including many children are injured. The **IDF** also demolishes a **Palestinian home** in East Jerusalem; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin, Nablus (clashing with Palestinian gunmen, leaving 1 **Palestinian gunman** dead, 2 bystanders wounded) and nr. Hebron (searching an Islamic charitable society, confiscating files, computers, cell phones). **Islamic Jihad** fires 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Israel** also deports **Tulkarm resident Rasmi Subayh**, held in administrative detention since 9/05, to Gaza for 2 yrs. **Jewish settlers** in Hebron stone to death a **30-yr.-old Palestinian**. (HA, MM, PNN 6/20; OSC, PSCT 6/20 in WNC 6/21; MM, NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 6/21; HA, PCHR 6/22)

21 JUNE

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes 2 air strikes on **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. driving in Khan Yunis, missing the car, hitting the street and a house, killing 2 **Palestinian bystanders**, including a pregnant woman, and wounding 15 bystanders; prevents **EU monitors** fr. reaching the Rafah crossing, forcing it to close for the day; closes the Sufa and Kerem Shalom crossings for the day, citing security threats; detains 2 unarmed Palestinians attempting to sneak across the Gaza border into Israel to find work; fires on 2 Palestinians swimming off the Gaza coast nr. the Egyptian border, suspected of smuggling, wounding 1. **Palestinians** fire 2 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Dura (firing on residential areas, then firing live ammunition at stone-throwing youths who confront them, causing no injuries), Nablus (firing rubber bullets at stone-throwing youths, wounding 12); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, nr. Hebron, and in Bethlehem and Jalazun r.c. nr. Ramallah. In Gaza City, a bomb goes off in a car driven by a mbr. of the Fatah-dominated **PSF**, injuring the 3 people in the car; no group claims responsibility. **Unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound 2 **Fatah** mbrs. in

Khan Yunis. (OCHA 6/21; ITV, MENA, VOI, YA 6/21 in WNC 6/22; HA, MM, PCHR, WP, WT 6/22; VOI, YA 6/22 in WNC 6/23; HA 6/24; OCHA 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

22 JUNE

The **IDF** sends an undercover unit into Ramallah in a car with Palestinian license plates, assassinates wanted **AMB mbr. Ayman Jabarin**, shooting him 10 times; partially lifts the security alert on Rafah crossing, allowing **EU monitors** to open the crossing for several hrs.; conducts random ID checks in Hebron, seriously beating 1 Palestinian. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba vandalize several homes in the Palestinian section of Hebron. **Jewish settlers** fr. Ramat Yishai in Hebron beat 2 Palestinians. (IMEMC 6/22; HA 6/24; PCHR 6/29)

23 JUNE

The **IDF** makes its 1st arrest raid into Gaza since the 9/05 disengagement, temporarily closing the Rafah crossing and sending troops 1,000 m into Rafah to detain 2 wanted Palestinians, allegedly mbrs. of Hamas; **Hamas** denies the men belong to the group. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus, in Tulkarm r.c. (firing on residential areas), and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Qalqilya. **Islamic Jihad** fires 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa s. of Hebron beat a Palestinian grazing animals nearby. **Jewish settlers** fr. Yitzhar set fire to 3 Palestinian cars, a tractor outside Nablus. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tal Rumayda in Hebron attack 4 international peace activists escorting Palestinian children to school; **IDF** soldiers observe but do not intervene. Mbrs. of the Hamas-dominated **ESF** fire on the home of a **PSF** mbr. in Khan Yunis, wounding 1 bystander. (MM 6/23; HA 6/24; WP, WT 6/25; OCHA, World Council of Churches press release 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

24 JUNE

The **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (firing on residential areas and stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, seriously wounding 1), in Hebron, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin. **Palestinians** fire a **rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. **Abbas** deploys mbrs of **Force 17** (under his command) to Qarni crossing to take over

security responsibility fr. security forces under Interior M **Siyam**'s control (see Quarterly Update). **Unidentified gunmen** kidnap, shoot and wound a **PA intelligence service officer** nr. Gaza City. Following the ESF attack on 6/23, **ESF**, **PSF** mbrs. exchange fire in Khan Yunis, leaving 1 PSF mbr. wounded. (HA, XIN 6/24; VOI 6/24 in WNC 6/25; OCHA 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

25 JUNE

Before dawn, **8 Palestinian gunmen** dressed in IDF uniforms sneak across the s. Gaza border into Israel using a tunnel, attack an IDF border post nr. Kerem Shalom with grenades, rifles, antitank rockets, killing **2 IDF soldiers**, wounding 4, capturing 1 (**IDF soldier Cpl. Gilad Shalit**, apparently wounded in the exchange) in what they call **Operation Dispel Illusion**; **2 Palestinian gunmen** are killed by retaliatory fire; the IDF sends tanks, bulldozers a half-mile inside Gaza to search for the captured soldier, the tunnel; several groups including Hamas's **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades**, the **PRCs**, and a previously unknown group, the **Army of Islam**, jointly claim the attack as retaliation for the IDF's 6/8 Abu Samhadana assassination; **Abbas**, **some Hamas political leaders** call for the captured IDF soldier's immediate release. In response, **Israel** shuts all crossings into Gaza (including forcing the closing of the Rafah crossing by barring **EU monitors** fr. entering Gaza through Kerem Shalom, leaving as many as **3,000 Palestinians** stranded on the border inside Egypt, and some **400 medical patients** awaiting treatment abroad stranded on the Gaza side); shuts off fuel supplies to Gaza; bars Palestinian fishermen fr. going out to sea; tightens restrictions on Palestinian movement at checkpoints and roadblocks across the West Bank. During the day, the **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Nablus (firing on a clearly marked al-Jazeera TV vehicle, causing damage but no injuries), and nr. Hebron, Jenin (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 2), Qalqilya. (AFP, HA, IFM, YA 6/25; MENA, OSC, VOI 6/25 in WNC 6/26; AFP, AP, CSM, JP, MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA 6/26; WT 6/27; NYT, OCHA 6/28; PCHR 6/29; NYT 7/8)

26 JUNE

Palestinian gunmen holding Shalit issue a statement demanding the release

of all 113 Palestinian women and 318 children fr. Israeli jails in return for information on Shalit's condition; **Israel** refuses, proceeds with plans to free Shalit itself, sending 3 additional armored battalions (more than 3,000 troops) to the Gaza border in warning. **Egypt** deploys 2,500 border guards along the Rafah border to prevent the kidnappers fr. trying to sneak Shalit into Egypt. **Abbas**, **Haniyeh** coordinate deployment of Abbas's presidential guard, other PA security forces to conduct house-to-house searches to find Shalit. **Haniyeh** urges the gunmen to "respect [Shalit] as a prisoner" but does not call for his release; calls on all militant groups to maintain a cease-fire so as to avoid a massive Israeli retaliation. **Egyptian envoys** begin attempts to mediate Shalit's release. **Palestinians** fire **2 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. During the day, the **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem and Ramallah, and nr. Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Qalqilya, Tulkarm; begins work on a new segment of the **separation wall** nr. Tene settlement s. of Hebron that will annex at least 100 d. of Palestinian land to the settlement. **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa burn 10 tons of hay stored by local Palestinian farmers. Meanwhile, the **Israeli High Court** rules that the government and IDF cannot bar Palestinians farmers in the West Bank fr. reaching their lands on the grounds that it is protecting them fr. **Jewish settlers**; must prevent settlers from harming Palestinian land, property, persons. (HA, IMEMC, MM, XIN 6/26; MENA, OSC, VOI 6/26 in WNC 6/27; HA, NYT, WP, WT 6/27; VOP 6/27 in WNC 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

27 JUNE

As the **IDF** continues to prepare for a ground invasion of Gaza, moving into place 2 infantry regiments, bringing the total build-up along the border to 5,000 troops, **Palestinian militants** in Gaza begin building sand berms, setting explosive devices along major routes an invading force might take; the U.S. urges Israel to give diplomacy time to work before launching a military operation. The **IDF** also reopens Gaza's Erez crossing to reps. of international agencies and PA officials with VIP status (though they must cross on foot); conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya; sends troops into al-Fara'a r.c., firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 3; conducts arrest raids, house searches in

Qabatya, nr. Tulkarm; begins work on a new segment of the **separation wall** in Bayt Jala nr. Bethlehem, uprooting 200 Palestinian olive trees. The **PRCs** announced that they have kidnapped an **18-yr.-old Jewish settler** fr. Itamar, who was last seen hitchhiking nr. French Hill settlement in East Jerusalem on 6/25. A **car bomb** explodes in Gaza City, killing **Hamas military cmdr. Hamza Abu Mukharrrib**, wounding several bystanders; the **IDF** denies responsibility, no other group claims it. **PSF** mbrs. shoot, wound a **Hamas** mbr. in Khan Yunis in what may be a continuation of 6/23-24 clashes. (HA, MM, REU, PCHR 6/27; JP, MENA, OSC, PSCT, VOI, VOP 6/27 in WNC 6/28; HA, NYT, OCHA, WP, WT 6/28; PCHR 6/29)

28 JUNE

Overnight, the **IDF** launches **Operation Summer Rains**, sending ground troops into s. Gaza; retaking the Dahaniyya airport area as a base, demolishing **5 Palestinian homes** and bulldozing land to improve lines of sight, and blowing up 3 bridges to control movement between the Rafah and Gaza City environs; conducting 7 air strikes on Gaza's only electricity plant nr. Gaza City and 6 transformer stations, wounding 2 Palestinians, blacking out 45% of the Strip, and leaving Gaza fully dependent on electricity fr. Israel; shelling open areas of s. Gaza; repeatedly breaking the sound barrier over the Strip. The **IDF's** elite Givati Brigade deploys outside n. Gaza, prepared to enter if rocket attacks resume. Midafternoon, **IDF** artillery begins shelling n. Gaza for the 1st time since the 6/9 incident that killed 8 Palestinians. After Palestinians fire 2 **rockets** into Israel in response (causing no damage or injuries), the **IDF** warns n. Gaza residents to evacuate the area, with **Olmert** saying that IDF operations will escalate until Shalit is released. In a warning to **Syrian pres. Bashar al-Asad** and Hamas's Damascus-based leadership, the **Israeli air force** makes overflights of Asad's residence in Latakia (where he is believed to be staying) and along the Syrian coast. Meanwhile, **Palestinians** fire 6 more **rockets** toward Israel, but all land inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. The **AMB** says it has kidnapped a **62-yr.-old Israeli man** fr. Rishon Letzion, inside Israel, who has been missing since 6/26; issues a statement threatening to target **Israeli** embassies abroad. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Iktaba nr. Tulkarm; raids a Fatah office in al-Bireh, confiscating computers, arresting

3 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Tulkarm, nr. Hebron. In Khan Yunis, **2 Palestinian children** are killed when they accidentally detonate unexploded IDF ordnance. In West Jerusalem, around **100 ultra-Orthodox Jews** attack a tour group of 50 pro-Israel Christians for wearing shirts saying "love your neighbor as yourself"; **Israeli police** intervene to stop the attack but make no arrests; 3 tourists, 1 police officer are injured. (AP, BBC, B'Tselem press release, HA, IFM, IMEMC, ITV, MM, NYT, PCHR, REU, Voice of the Arabs [Cairo], WP, WT, YA 6/28; OSC 6/28 in WNC 6/30; BBC, CSM, HA, IMEMC, MM, NYT, REU, WP, WT 6/29; *Globe*, PCHR 6/29; HJ 7/1 in WNC 7/1; see also AFP, MENA, PSCT 6/27 in WNC 6/28; OCHA 6/30; PCHR 7/6; REU 7/11)

29 JUNE

Overnight, the **IDF** stages scores of arrest raids across the West Bank detaining **64 senior Hamas political officials, including 8 PA cabinet mbrs. and 26 PC mbrs.**, plus **23 senior Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades mbrs. Haniyeh, Siyam, PA FM Mahmud Zahhar** remain free. (**100s of Palestinians** in Jenin, Ramallah, Tulkarm hold marches, sit-ins to protest the Israeli arrest of PA legislators.) **Israel** says the arrest campaign has been planned for wks., with the government securing Atty. Gen. Menachem Mazuz's authorization and arrest warrants far in advance of the Kerem Shalom attack on 6/25. In Gaza, the **IDF** shells 2 electricity transformers and open areas of n. Gaza, cutting all electricity to n. Gaza and wounding 1 Palestinian civilian; makes air strikes on 2 electrical shops in Khan Yunis, a Hamas training camp outside Khan Yunis, a car carrying 4 **Islamic Jihad** mbrs. in Gaza City, wounding 3 bystanders in the Gaza City incident; fires at least 30 shells at areas around Khan Yunis, wounding 1 Palestinian farmer; conducts house searches in al-Shuka nr. Rafah; intermittently breaks the sound barrier to harass the Gaza population. In response to Israel's military escalation, the **PRC** overnight kill a **Jewish settler teenager** they reported they kidnapped on 6/27; the **IDF** finds his body buried nr. Ramallah. During the day, the **IDF** makes an air strikes on targets in s. Gaza and on a car driving in Gaza City in an attempt to assassinate an **Islamic Jihad** mbr., who escapes lightly wounded; shells n. and s. Gaza, lightly wounding at least 3 Palestinians. **AMB, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Islamic**

Jihad, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) mbrs. also fire at least 6 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing light damage to a farm. **Palestinian militants** (thought to be **Hamas**) blow a hole in the Gaza-Egypt border fence; cordons of **PA security forces**, **Egyptian border guards** prevent most Palestinians fr. crossing through, though the militants who set the bomb reportedly escape into Egypt. In the evening, **Olmert, Peretz** order the **IDF** to suspend plans to send the Givati Brigade into n. Gaza overnight as planned in light of requests fr. **Egypt** to allow its envoys in Gaza more time to secure Shalit's release. Meanwhile in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches (unrelated to the arrest of PA officials) in Hebron, and in and around Ramallah, Salfit; raids 6 Islamic charities and schools nr. Hebron, Jenin and in Bethlehem, Tulkarm, confiscating computers, files; issues military orders confiscating 25 d. of Palestinian land nr. Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**. (HA, IFM, IMEMC, JAZ, MM, NYT, WP, WT, YA 6/29; AFP, MENA, OSC, PSCT, VOI, VOP 6/29 in WNC 6/30; CSM, HA, MM, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 6/30; OSC, PSCT, YA 6/30 in WNC 7/1; *al-Ayyam* 7/1 in WNC 7/2; HA, PCHR 7/6; PCHR 7/27)

30 JUNE

Overnight in Gaza, the **IDF** makes air strikes on at least 20 targets, including **PA Interior Min.** offices (saying they were used to plan terrorist attacks), buildings used by the **AMB** and **Hamas**, an **ESF** training camp, a PA intelligence office, several roads, and open areas; continues to shell n. Gaza, to break the sound barrier over the Strip; conducts arrest raids in Rafah. The only reported casualties are **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.** killed in an air strike on a rocket launching site in Rafah, 3 Palestinian gunmen (**AMB** or **Islamic Jihad**) wounded nr. Jabaliya r.c., and 7 Palestinian bystanders (including 5-yr.-old Palestinian girl) wounded in shelling of n. Gaza. **Israel** also revokes the residency rights of **Hamas-affiliated PA Jerusalem Affairs M Khalid Abu 'Arafa** and **Change and Reform PC mbrs. Muhammad Abu Tir, Ahmad Attoun, Muhammad Totah** (detained on 6/28-29), giving them 30 days to appeal or renounce their positions within the PA. The **PRCs** fire at least 3 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends an undercover unit into Nablus, surrounding

a cemetery, fatally shooting **1 Palestinian** teenager, wounding and arresting a 2d Palestinian, arresting 2 others, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 31; also raids an Islamic charity in Nablus, confiscating a computer, files; conducts additional arrest raids in and around Nablus, in Jenin. **IDF Central Command head Maj. Gen. Ya'ir Naveh** says that the main crossing between Jerusalem and Bethlehem is now closed to **Palestinians who hold Israeli IDs** (including 237,000 East Jerusalem residents), enforcement (which reportedly is irregular at present) may be expanded to other crossings into the West Bank soon. (HA, IMEMC, MM, PCHR, WP, YA 6/30; OSC, XIN 6/30 in WNC 7/1; IMEMC, NYT, WP 7/1; VOP 7/1 in WNC 7/2; PCHR 7/6)

1 JULY

As Operation Summer Rains continues, the **IDF** sends a small number of additional troops into s. Gaza nr. the border to search for explosives and tunnels, though the main force occupying Dahaniyya airport largely remains idle since taking over the site on 6/28; makes air strikes on Hamas targets in s. Gaza, causing no reported injuries but destroying 2 greenhouses, damaging several homes and a rehabilitation center; conducts arrest raids in Abasan e. of Khan Yunis, also bulldozing 110 d. of olive trees and agricultural land; continues to shell areas of n. Gaza (wounding 1 Palestinian civilian), to conduct nightly flights over the Strip breaking the sound barrier. **Palestinian gunmen** fire on the troops, hit an IDF bulldozer with an antitank missile, causing damage but no injuries. The **Palestinian groups holding Shalit** issue a 2d demand that Israel release 1,000 Palestinian prisoners, including women and children, in an exchange. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; raids, searches 5 Islamic charities in Jenin and Jericho and the offices of *Manbar al-Islab* newspaper in Ramallah, confiscating computers, files. (OSC, VOP 7/1 in WNC 7/2; WP 7/2; PCHR 7/6)

2 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** escalates its military operations in Gaza, making air strikes on **Haniyeh's** empty Gaza City offices (destroying them, but causing no casualties), an Interior Min. office used by the **ESF** (killing **1 Hamas volunteer with the ESF**, wounding

a 2d) in Jabaliya r.c., 2 **ESF** training sites in Gaza City (no casualties), a Gaza City school (causing damage but no injuries); shells the s. Gaza coast fr. the sea, causing no injuries; continues to shell open areas in n. Gaza (setting fire to a Palestinian home), break the sound barrier over the Strip. **Egyptian security envoy Omar Sulayman** cancels plans to visit Gaza as Egyptian mediation efforts to free Cpl. Shalit will not result in a deal, though lower-level efforts continue. During the day, the **IDF** reduces the rate of shelling of n. Gaza; fatally shoots 3 **armed Palestinians** nr. the Dahaniyya airport. Under international pressure, **Olmert** allows Qarni crossing to open for 5 hrs. for the import of basic goods, resumes fuel deliveries to Gaza through Nahal Oz to ease the humanitarian situation. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids a Nablus hospital in a failed search for a wanted Palestinian, firing on the surrounding neighborhood (wounding 1 Palestinian) and stone-throwing youths who confront the troops (wounding 6); patrols in and around Nablus, bulldozing several Palestinian vehicles, raiding and shutting down transmission of the Nablus TV station; raids 4 Islamic charities and a clinic in 'Askar r.c., 3 other charities in Bethlehem, nr. Qalqilya, and in Tulkarm, confiscating computers, files; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, Salfit and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin; conducts house searches, fires percussion grenades in al-Fawwar r.c., several villages around Hebron. (AFP, AP, HA, IFM, IMEMC, NYT, WP, WT, YA 7/2; AFP 7/2 in WNC 7/2; NYT, WP 7/3; PCHR 7/6)

3 JULY

Before dawn, the **IDF** begins moving tanks into the Bayt Hanun area of n. Gaza, occupying 4 Palestinian homes as operational bases, leveling land, searching for roadside bombs and tunnels; steps up air strikes on Gaza, hitting **AMB** offices in central Gaza City; continues shelling n. Gaza (wounding a Palestinian in a home nr. Bayt Hanun). During the day, the **IDF** make air strikes on Hamas targets in Bayt Hanun, killing 2 **Hamas mbrs.**, damaging a Reuters press vehicle; halts fuel supplies to Gaza. **Palestinian groups holding Shalit** give Israel until 11:00 P.M. EST this evening to begin releasing 1,500 Palestinian prisoners or Israel would "bear full responsibility for the future consequences"; **Olmert** says Israel will not give in to any Palestinian demands; **Haniyeh** repeats calls to treat Shalit well, protect him.

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Nablus, and nr. Bethlehem; raids an Islamic charity nr. Bethlehem, confiscating computers. (MM, NYT, WT 7/3; NYT, WT, YA 7/4; PCHR 7/6)

4 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends another 15–20 tanks and armored personnel carriers (APCs) into Bayt Hanun and into the Erez industrial zone, leveling land to clear lines of sight, searching for roadside bombs and tunnels that could obstruct a large-scale military incursion into Gaza (as PA security forces pull out of their border positions at Erez, Palestinians stream into the industrial zone to scavenge fr. closed businesses there); continues to break the sound barrier over Gaza and to make air and artillery strikes on n. Gaza, killing 1 **PA security officer**, wounding several Palestinians, and destroying an empty building on Islamic University campus. During the day, the **IDF** continues the n. Gaza build-up, reoccupying the fmr. Nisanit settlement site, occupying 2 more Palestinian homes as operational bases, bulldozing a PA security force base in Bayt Hanun; fires on residential areas around Erez (wounding a Palestinian child) and on a Palestinian Energy Authority repair crew attempting to fix a transformer in the area. The **IDF** also allows **Qarni crossing** to reopen for several hrs. to import humanitarian supplies from the **World Food Program (WFP)** and **UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)**; WFP reports that there are only 2 days left of sugar and 8 days left of animal feed in Gaza and that milk and dairy products are only available in small quantities. Meanwhile, the **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades** fire a **2-engine Qassam rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting an empty school nr. Ashqelon, 7.5 mi inside Israel (the longest-range rocket to date). In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids Jenin, ambushes and fires on a car, assassinating **wanted AMB Jenin cmdr. Fida'i Qandil**, wounding a passenger; raids a PA police station in Ramallah, detaining 3 Palestinians captured by the PA in connection with the murder of a Jewish settler on 6/29; arrests **Hamas spokesman Farhat Asad** nr. Ramallah; patrols in, fires on residential areas of al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Jenin, wounding 2 Palestinians; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Ramallah, in Nablus and Qalqilya, and nr. Bethlehem, Hebron. **Jewish settlers**

fr. Mehola nr. Tubas attack Palestinian farmers working their fields nearby. (HA, IMEMC, MM, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WT, YA 7/4; NYT, WP, WT 7/5; OCHA, PCHR 7/6)

5 JULY

Before dawn, the **IDF** responds to Hamas's 7/3 rocket fire on Ashqelon by carrying out air strikes on the **PA Interior Min.** in Gaza City (destroying it and wounding at least 7 Palestinians in homes nearby, including 4 children), a Hamas-run school in Gaza City, a Hamas training camp in s. Gaza. Later, **Hamas** fires a **2d 2-engine Qassam rocket** that lands outside Ashqelon, causing no damage or injuries, the **Israeli security cabinet** authorizes the **IDF** to step up operations in Gaza and the West Bank aimed at halting rocket fire and "striking at institutions and infrastructures that serve terrorism," particularly targeting Hamas. During the day, the **IDF** moves more tanks, troops into n. Gaza and begins to push south toward Bayt Hanun and Jabaliya r.c., reoccupying fmr. settlement sites, occupying a 7th Palestinian home as an operational base, exchanging fire with **Palestinian gunmen** and shelling (fr. land and sea) areas where militants are allegedly burying explosives, killing **1 Hamas mbr.**, **1 PA naval officer**, wounding at least 17 Palestinians (10 PA naval officers at a barracks nr. where the Hamas mbr. was killed, 7 children). In Gaza City, **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.** are killed when explosives they are handling detonate prematurely. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, surrounds a building, orders **wanted AMB cmdr. Mahmud Haymur** to surrender, ordering him to undress when he emerges and then executing him by shooting him in the head at point blank range; surrounds, fires on a PA police station in Halhul nr. Hebron, demanding custody of an Israeli Palestinian believed to be held there (police allow soldiers to search the station to confirm he is not there); raids 3 Islamic charities nr. Hebron, Jenin, and Nablus, confiscating computers, vandalizing offices; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Nablus, nr. Tulkarm and Qalqilya, and in Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba, under **IDF** escort, begin work on a new settler bypass road linking the settlement to the Ibrahim Mosque/Tomb of the Patriarchs. In Gaza City, **unidentified gunmen** assassinate **senior Hamas mbr. Husayn Abu Ajwa**, who is considered a leading promoter of religious and political

reform within the movement. (IFM, NYT, PCHR, REU, WP, WT 7/5; HA, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP, WT 7/6; HA 7/8; PCHR 7/13; OCHA 7/18)

6 JULY

Overnight and during the day, the **IDF** continues to expand its presence in n. Gaza, entering populated areas for the 1st time since disengagement, meeting strong resistance fr. **Palestinians**, who use RPGs, rifles, roadside bombs and fire **8 rockets** toward Israel (only 4 land inside Israel, causing no damage or injuries). The **IDF** uses air strikes, artillery, tanks, and gunfire as well as bulldozes fields, roads, and open areas to widen the n. Gaza buffer zone; the clashes, mostly concentrated in Bayt Lahiya but also in s. Gaza, leave at least **24 Palestinians** (many reportedly **Hamas mbrs.**, but also including at least 2 children), **1 IDF soldier** (hit by friendly fire) dead and wound some 80 Palestinians (nearly a third of them children), 1 IDF soldier. The **IDF** also bulldozes areas around Khan Yunis, demolishing 3 **Palestinian homes**; opens Erez and Qarni crossings for several hrs. for the movement of international aid workers, humanitarian goods. **Palestinian gunmen** also fire on an al-Jazeera TV car in Bayt Hanun, believing it to be an IDF undercover unit, wounding the driver, 1 journalist. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into a memorial service in Jenin r.c. for an AMB mbr. killed on 7/5, attempts to assassinate the AMB's n. **West Bank cmdr. Zakariya Zubaydi** and **local Islamic Jihad leader Mahmud al-Sadi**, fatally shooting **2 Palestinian teenagers**, wounding 18; Sadi, Zubaydi escape. The **IDF** also raids an Islamic charity nr. Hebron; demolishes a **Palestinian home** nr. Jerusalem; patrols in 'Anabta nr. Tulkarm; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Nablus, nr. Hebron and Qalqilya; issues military orders confiscating 45 d. of land along settler bypass road 60 nr. Hebron for construction of a military base nr. the separation wall. **Jewish settlers** fr. Suissa set fire to a Palestinian home; the **IDF** prevents firefighters fr. reaching the area. **Israeli police** arrest **5 senior Hamas mbrs.** in East Jerusalem for illegally helping **Change and Reform PC mbrs.** conduct Hamas affairs in the city. (IMEMC, OCHA, NYT, WT, YA 7/6; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT, YA 7/7; HA, NYT, WP 7/8; PCHR 7/13)

7 JULY

As Operation Summer Rains continues, the **IDF** pushes deeper into populated areas of n. Gaza. During the day, the IDF engages in heavy clashes (including air strikes) with the **AMB, Hamas** around Bayt Lahiya, killing at least **7 Palestinians** (mostly AMB mbrs. but including a 6-yr.-old girl). Palestinians fire **13 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting an empty schoolyard and factory in Sederot, lightly injuring 3 Israelis; a 14th rocket lands inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. The **Palestinian groups** holding **Shalit** issue a statement confirming that he is in good condition, calling for negotiations to end the fighting and release him; **Olmert** rejects any bargaining. In the West Bank, the **IDF** surrounds, raids a Palestinian home in 'Askar r.c., fatally shooting **wanted AMB mbr. Tamir Kandil** in an apparent assassination, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 5; fires on residential areas nr. Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, causing no injuries; patrols in Qabatya; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. **Unknown gunmen** kidnap, kill a **PSF officer** nr. Gaza City. A **12-yr.-old Palestinian** wounded by IDF fire nr. Erez on 7/5 dies, as do **3 Palestinian militants** wounded by IDF fire in Bayt Lahiya on 7/6. (HA, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/8; NYT, WT 7/9; PCHR 7/13; OCHA 7/18)

8 JULY

Before dawn, **Israel** withdraws troops fr. n. Gaza to just inside Israel's border (saying its objectives there have been met, even though rocket fire fr. the area has been increasing; see 7/5), but declares that **Operation Summer Rains** is still ongoing and is not being scaled down. (Palestinians in Bayt Lahiya report at least **100 Palestinian homes** heavily damaged or destroyed, **50 d.** of agricultural land bulldozed since 7/3.) During the day, the **IDF** sends forces across the eastern Gaza border to search for roadside bombs and tunnels, engaging in heavy clashes with Palestinian gunmen nr. Qarni crossing, leaving **4 Palestinians** dead (including at least 2 gunmen, 1 journalist), around 20 injured before pulling back across the Qarni crossing into the industrial estate late in the evening (barring the **WFP** fr. reaching warehouses there where it holds emergency food stocks for 160,000 Palestinians in the area). The **IDF** also makes air strikes on n. Gaza, destroying a main bridge

and hitting a home outside Gaza City, killing a **Palestinian woman, 2 children, a 4th Palestinian** nearby, and wounding 4 children inside the home; continues shelling and bulldozing areas around Rafah. **UNRWA** opens 2 schools in Rafah to house around **1,000 Palestinians** who have heeded **IDF** calls to evacuate their homes nr. closed military zones around Dahaniyya airport. A **Palestinian** is killed in his Khan Yunis house when explosives he is handling detonate prematurely, also injuring 5 family mbrs. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Jenin r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Nablus, Ramallah. A **Palestinian militant** dies of injuries received earlier in Bayt Lahiya. In Israel, **dual Israeli-Canadian citizen Ghazi Falah**, a geography prof. at University of Akron in Ohio, is arrested on charges of spying for **Hizballah** and **Iran**. (AP, PCHR, WP 7/8; NYT, WP, WT 7/9; NYT 7/10; PCHR 7/13; WT 7/27)

9 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes air strikes on a carload of Hamas mbrs. in Rafah (killing **1 Palestinian bystander**, wounding 6 bystanders, 2 Hamas mbrs.), a carload of Palestinian gunmen in Gaza City (missing, wounding 5 bystanders), armed Palestinians nr. Qarni crossing (wounding 3 PA security officers nearby), an alleged **Islamic Jihad** weapons factory in Gaza City, a bridge and electricity transformer in Bayt Hanun, an **Abu Rish Brigades** training base in Khan Yunis; continues to shell areas of Gaza City, wounding 12 Palestinians; fires on residential areas of Rafah; allows the Nahal Oz pipeline to open for several hrs./day for the import of fuel. Meanwhile, the **Gaza municipality** runs out of fuel for its trucks requiring the halt to trash collection in Gaza City (still in effect as of 7/12), raising **World Health Organization (WHO)** concern regarding the spread of communicable diseases. **Palestinians** fire several **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, hitting 1 home and lightly wounding 1 Israeli. **Haniyeh** calls for a mutual cease-fire, but **Olmert** rejects it, saying that Operation Summer Rains is not over and that "we will operate, enter, and pull out [of Gaza] as needed." Cmdr. of Israel's southern region **Maj. Gen. Yoav Galant** says Israel is "prepared to continue the operation a month, two months, and, if need be, even more." In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Bethlehem, Nablus; patrols in, fires on

residential areas of Qalqilya. (NYT 7/10; MEZ 7/11; PCHR 7/13)

10 JULY

The **IDF** conducts 4 air strikes on Palestinian militants in n. and s. Gaza, killing at least **7 Palestinians** (including 1 Hamas mbr., 2 Islamic Jihad mbrs., 1 other armed Palestinian, 3 Palestinian teenagers playing soccer in a field), wounding at least 9 (7 militants, 2 civilians); allows the Erez crossing to open for several hrs. for the import of food. In the West Bank, the **IDF** occupies a Palestinian home nr. Hebron as an observation post; patrols in Nablus, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 1; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm. A **15-mo.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received in the 6/21 IDF attack on Islamic Jihad mbrs. in Khan Yunis. (WP 7/10; IFM, MEZ, PCHR, NYT, WP 7/11; PCHR 7/13)

11 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** makes air strikes on an **AMB** car carrying rockets to a launch site nr. Bayt Hanun (the targets escape unharmed, 2 bystanders are wounded; a **PA security officer** later sent to retrieve the deserted car is killed by IDF fire that also wounds 2 bystanders) and on a bridge in n. Gaza; allows the Erez crossing to open for several hrs. for the import of food, medical supplies. The **International Comm. of the Red Cross (ICRC)** reports that **3 Palestinians with medical problems** stranded on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border, closed since 6/25, have died of heat stroke; that some 4,000 Palestinians, including 578 "urgent humanitarian cases" are now waiting on the Egyptian border for reentry to Gaza. A **12-yr.-old Palestinian** dies of injuries received in the IDF shelling of Bayt Lahiya on 7/6. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, and in and around Hebron, Nablus. Overnight, **Hamas mbrs.** fire on a group of **AMB mbrs.** in Gaza City, wounding 5 and kidnapping 2; in retaliation, the **AMB** kidnaps 2 Hamas mbrs.; all 4 abducted men are released by early morning. (HA 7/11; NYT, OCHA 7/12; PCHR 7/13)

12 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** drops 2 quarter-ton bombs on a 3-story building in Gaza City

in an attempt to assassinate **chief Hamas bomb-maker Muhammad Dayif**, 4 times previously the target of Israeli assassination since 2000, wounding Dayif, killing **senior Hamas mbr. Nabil al-Salima, his wife and 7 children**, wounding **Izzeddin al-Qassam Brigades n. Gaza cmdr. Ahmad al-Gander** and at least 33 bystanders, seriously damaging 15 surrounding homes. At the same time, the **IDF** also expands **Operation Summer Rains** with a major incursion into central Gaza, sending 10s of tanks, APCs, armored bulldozers across the Kissufim crossing under helicopter and drone escort and moving troops north fr. positions nr. Abasan, cutting the Strip in half, ordering **PA security forces** to leave the area, shelling and bulldozing surrounding areas. During the day, the **IDF** reportedly kills at least **22 other Palestinians** and wounds at least 14 in major gun battles nr. Dayr al-Balah in central Gaza and in air and artillery strikes around Dayr al-Balah and Khan Yunis; the **PRC's Salah al-Din Brigades Khan Yunis leader Hisham Abu Nusayra**, a **PA policeman** are killed in separate air strikes in Khan Yunis and a police station in al-Qarara is hit. The **IDF** also bulldozes 65 d. of agricultural land, partially demolishes **8 Palestinian homes** and a car, and occupies 10 Palestinian homes as military posts in Dayr al-Balah; withdraws fr. the Qarni industrial estate (held since 7/8), allowing humanitarian and commercial imports to resume, and from Dahaniyya airport (held since 6/28), allowing PA security forces to enter the airport and the Rafah crossing and around 1,000 displaced Palestinians (see 7/8) to return to their homes. **Palestinians** try to fire **rockets** fr. Gaza toward Kissufim, but they fall short, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Dura, Nablus to conduct arrest raids. A **Palestinian militant** dies of injuries received during the 7/7 IDF air strikes on Bayt Lahiya. (BBC, HA, IMEMC, NYT, OCHA, PCHR, WP, WT 7/12; NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/13; PCHR 7/20; NYT 7/21; B'Tselem 8/3)

Before dawn, **Hizballah** launches a cross-border attack on **Israel**, dubbed **Operation True Promise**, firing rockets across the Blue Line into n. Israel as a diversion; sending fighters in to n. Israel to attack an **IDF** patrol btwn. Zarit and Shetula, capturing **2 IDF soldiers**, killing **3 soldiers**, wounding 2. The **IDF** sends troops into Lebanon to search for the missing soldiers, where an **IDF** tank hits a mine, killing **4 IDF soldiers**

and marking Israel's 1st ground incursion into Lebanon since its 5/00 withdrawal. (An **8th IDF soldier** is killed, 2 others are wounded in Lebanon late in the evening as they try to recover the remains of the 4 tank occupants.) The **IDF** also launches air strikes and directs heavy artillery, tank fire on some 40 Hizballah positions, roads, bridges, power stations in s. Lebanon, killing at least **2 Lebanese civilians, 1 Lebanese soldier**, wounding at least 10. The **Lebanese government** requests that **UNIFIL** broker a cease-fire, but **Israel** says a cease-fire would be contingent upon return of the captured soldiers. **Hizballah leader Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah** says the group plans to hold the 2 soldiers for the release of 3–4 Lebanese held by Israel. During the day, **IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz** calls up a reserve infantry division for deployment to the n. Israel border and sends the Israeli navy into Lebanese waters, threatening a massive invasion of Lebanon; makes air strikes on a Palestinian guerrilla base s. of Beirut. (BBC, HA, IFM 7/12; HA, IFM, NYT, WP, WT 7/13; UNIS 7/14) (see Quarterly Update for details)

13 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** makes air strikes destroying the **PA FMin.** building in Gaza City, wounding 13 bystanders (including 6 children); makes an air strike on Khan Yunis, killing **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.**, wounding a 2d; sends troops into al-Qarara, firing on residential and agricultural areas. During the day in Gaza, the **IDF** continues to shell n. Gaza, wounding at least 2 Palestinians; fires on residential areas nr. Sufa crossing, wounding a Palestinian child outside his home. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Salfit; uproots 50 Palestinian trees nr. the **separation wall** in Bayt Jala for "security reasons." A **Palestinian** teenager wounded in a 7/10 IDF air strike on Bayt Hanun dies. (NYT, WP 7/13; PCHR 7/20)

Officially launching **Operation Just Reward** (ca. 7/18 renamed **Operation Change of Direction**), the **IDF** makes predawn air strikes on s. **Lebanon** that kill at least **44 Lebanese civilians**, wound around 100. **Hizballah** responds by firing some 60 Katyusha rockets on n. Israel, hitting a home in Nahariya (killing **1 Israeli woman**, wounding 29), wounding 11 in Safad, and hitting the northern towns of Carmiel, Majdal Qrum, Zarit. During the day, the **IDF** intensifies its attacks on **Lebanon** to cut

Hizballah supply lines and prevent internal transportation of weapons and fighters, imposing a naval blockade on Lebanese ports north to Beirut and making air strikes on Beirut International Airport, the **Lebanese army's** main Rayak air base nr. the Syrian border, a small military airport in Qulayat in n. Lebanon, Hizballah's al-Manar TV station outside Beirut (wounding 6) and a relay tower in Baalbek (killing **1 Lebanese**, wounding 4), a major oil depot in Jiyeh, numerous roads and bridges. After **Israel** warns Lebanese to evacuate Hizballah-dominated areas of s. Beirut, **Hizballah** threatens to strike Haifa if Beirut is targeted. When the IDF conducts overflights of Beirut shortly afterward, Hizballah fires 2 Katyushas at Haifa, damaging a hotel but causing no injuries. Israeli-Hizballah exchanges continue late into the evening, with **Hizballah** firing around 90 rockets and mortars into Israel, hitting some 20 northern towns and killing a **2d Israeli**, while **Israel** attacks 100s of targets across Lebanon (mostly in the south, but including hitting Beirut airport a 2d time, with artillery reportedly fired at a rate of 1 shell per minute throughout the day), killing at least another **10 Lebanese**. Total casualties for the day are estimated at 54 Lebanese (overwhelmingly civilians) killed and 103 wounded, and 2 Israelis killed and 90 injured (1 seriously, two-thirds being treated for shock). **Israel** also warns **UNIFIL** that the IDF will target anyone moving nr. the Blue Line, including UNIFIL observers, prompting UNIFIL to confine its 2,500 troops (who are either unarmed or lightly armed for personal defense only) to barracks. (AP, HA, MSNBC, National Public Radio, REU 7/13; NYT, UNIS, WP, WT 7/14)

14 JULY

Overnight in Gaza, the **IDF** conducts air strikes heavily damaging the offices of **Change and Reform** PC mbrs. in Bayt Lahiya (causing no injuries), destroying a bridge linking Nussayrat r.c. with al-Mughraqa; directs tank fire on a Palestinian truck approaching its position but refusing orders to halt, killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding a 2d. During the day, the **IDF** continues to shell n. Gaza, targeting 2 PA security offices and damaging 4 Palestinian homes; bulldozes 83 d. of Palestinian land nr. Dayr al-Balah, more than 100 d. of land outside al-Qarara; fires on residential areas of Khuza' nr. the border, wounding a Palestinian woman inside her home. Some

50 Palestinian militants temporarily take over the Rafah crossing, allowing as many as half of the 4,000 Palestinian stranded on the Egyptian side to enter Gaza; Egyptian border police block Palestinians who try to cross fr. Gaza into Egypt. **Palestinians** fire at least **7 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing damage in 1 incident but no injuries. The **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, in Tulkarm; prevents Palestinians under age 45 fr. attending Friday prayers at al-Aqsa mosque. (HA, JP 7/14; NYT, WP 7/15; OCHA 7/19; PCHR 7/20)

Overnight, after **Olmert's** security cabinet approves a list of "more significant" **Hizballah** targets, the **IDF** makes air strikes on Hizballah sites in s. Beirut and targets the Beirut-Damascus highway (in an attempt to complete an air, sea, and land blockade on **Lebanon**). During the day, the **IDF** extends the naval blockade northwards to Tripoli; shells numerous bridges, roads, other civilian infrastructure, especially in s. Beirut; makes air strikes on the building serving as Hizballah's headquarters and **Nasrallah's** residence (destroying it), its al-Nur radio station (missing and hitting an apartment building), and the Beirut airport, a major power plant and a bridge s. of the capital, a **PFLP** base nr. the Syrian border. At least **8 Lebanese civilians** are reported killed (3 in Beirut, 5 in the south), 55 injured during the day, raising the estimated death toll since the start of operations to **66 Lebanese** (overwhelmingly civilians), more than 200 wounded. **Hizballah** continues to fire Katyushas at n. Israel, killing an **Israeli woman, her 5-yr.-old grandson** in Moshav Meron and injuring as many as 50 Israelis across the Galilee, including in Acre, Carmiel, Kiryat Shimon, Nahariya, Safad. **Hizballah** also hits an **Israeli naval ship** 10-mi off the coast nr. Beirut, disabling it, killing **1 Israeli sailor**, leaving **3 other sailors** missing, raising the comprehensive death toll to **13 Israelis** killed (the majority soldiers), around 150 injured (mostly suffering shock). (HA, NYT, WT 7/14; NYT, WP, WT 7/15; NYT, WP 7/16; NYT 7/17, 7/19)

15 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** pulls troops out of central Gaza; makes air strikes on the **PA Economics Min.** offices in Gaza City (causing no injuries), a factory in Gaza City (killing **1 Palestinian**, wounding at least 9), a bridge nr. Bureij r.c.; fatally shoots an unarmed **Palestinian** who strays close to the

Kissufim crossing. **Palestinians** fire several **rockets** into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received during the IDF's 7/6 failed assassination attempt on Zubaydi and Sadi. (NYT, WP 7/15; NYT 7/16; PCHR 7/20)

The **IDF** escalates its attacks on **Lebanon**, completing the naval blockade of the coast; making air strikes on **Hizballah** offices, homes of Hizballah leaders and a **senior Hamas official**; hitting scores of civilian infrastructure targets, particularly in pro-Hizballah neighborhoods in s. Beirut and s. Lebanon, and roads and bridges in e. and n. Lebanon (including destroying the last bridge on the Beirut-Damascus highway), also destroying numerous gas stations, fuel depots (including hitting Jiyeh terminal for a 2d day, creating a major oil slick), a major power plant s. of the capital; shelling ports in Amshit, Batrun, Beirut, Juniyah, Sidon, Tripoli, and Tyre and hitting a radar installation in the new Manara lighthouse in Beirut to disable Lebanon's coast radar defenses. At least **16 Lebanese civilians** are killed in an air strike on a civilian convoy fleeing Marwahin village in s. Lebanon after Israel warned residents to evacuate, bringing the estimated death toll since the start of the crisis to **92 Lebanese killed** and at least 250 wounded, almost all of them civilians. **Hizballah** fires some 90 Katyushas at n. Israel during the day, hitting Tiberias for the 1st time, as well as Carmiel and Nahariya, lightly injuring at least 11 Israelis. **Italy** begins evacuating its citizens fr. Lebanon; **Britain, France, the U.S.** say they have plans to do the same. (HA, NYT, WP, WT 7/16; NYT 7/29; WP 8/1; NYT 8/3)

16 JULY

The **IDF** sends tanks, troops back into n. Gaza before dawn, firing missiles at and exchanging gunfire with **Palestinian militants**, killing at least **3 Hamas** mbrs., **2 PRC** mbrs., wounding at least 30 persons (including 1 Japanese and 1 Palestinian journalist, 2 paramedics) nr. Bayt Hanun and conducting arrest raids, house searches in Bayt Hanun; continues to shell n. Gaza, areas nr. Rafah (killing a **59-yr.-old Palestinian woman**); makes a predawn air strike on **PA FMin.** offices in Gaza City, wounding 3 Palestinians; makes a 2d air strike on the FMin. complex late in the evening, destroying it, wounding 12 bystanders, damaging several nearby

homes; fires missiles fr. helicopters at the **ESF compound** in Jabaliya, damaging it. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem and in and around Hebron (also searching and confiscating documents fr. the Islamic Society for Orphans), Nablus; begins work on a new segment of the **separation wall** southwest of Hebron. The **IDF** also detains for several hrs. **al-Jazeera satellite TV's Jerusalem bureau chief** for questioning regarding violating Israeli military censorship rules. **Jewish settlers** fr. Tal Rumayda attack Palestinians, international peace activists in Hebron. **Unidentified gunmen** fatally shoot a **PA security officer** in Gaza. (AP, IMEMC, NYT 7/16; AP, NYT, WP, WT 7/17; OCHA, PCHR 7/18; OCHA 7/19; PCHR 7/20)

Overnight, the **IDF** launches heavy missile barrages and air strikes on s. Beirut suburbs (leveling wide swaths around the Hizballah headquarters) and s. Lebanon, hitting a major power station. In response, **Hizballah** fires some 20 rockets on Haifa, killing **8 Israelis** and wounding 7 at a rail yard, hitting the city's main oil refinery and gas depot, and a busy downtown street at rush hour; the **IDF** says that 4 of the rockets fired were Iranian made Fajr missiles (which, if confirmed, would mark Hizballah's 1st use of the weapons), but Hizballah says it fired only Raad-2 and Raad-3 missiles. The **IDF** strikes back during the day, ordering Lebanese to evacuate 7 villages in s. Lebanon; hitting at least 80 targets across Lebanon, killing at least **45 Lebanese** and wounding more than 100, including killing 20 in an air strike on a government civil defense building in Tyre (also wounding 50) and 8 dual Canadian citizens in a strike on a minibus in s. Lebanon; also killing a **Ghanaian UNIFIL soldier and his family** in an air strike on his house; leveling an apartment building in s. Beirut, knocking out electricity in many areas of the capital. (AP, HA, IFM 7/16; NYT, WP, WT 7/17)

17 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** expands ground operations in Bayt Hanun under artillery fire, occupying the town, firing on residential areas (killing **2 Palestinians**), bulldozing land and homes, occupying houses as military bases, forcing some residents to flee; fires 2 artillery shells at a group of Palestinian children playing soccer in al-Bureij r.c., wounding a 14-yr.-old; fires on residen-

tial areas of Abasan, wounding 1 Palestinian. **Palestinians** fire at least **7 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 2 Israelis. In the West Bank, the **IDF** makes a raid on Nablus, where Palestinian militants throw an explosive device at troops, killing **1 IDF soldier**, wounding 6; sends undercover units into Bethlehem to detain a wanted **AMB** mbr.; conducts late-night arrest raids nr. Nablus, Qalqilya. For a 2d day (see 7/16), the **IDF** detains **al-Jazeera satellite TV's Jerusalem bureau chief** for questioning regarding violating Israeli military censorship rules. (AP 7/17; WP 7/18; PCHR 7/20)

The **IDF** intensifies attacks on e. and n. Lebanon, hitting Lebanese army barracks in Tripoli and army bases in Baalbek (killing **9 Lebanese soldiers**), homes of **Hizballah** officials in the east; conducting heavy bombing of s. Beirut to destroy underground bunkers where **Nasrallah** and Hizballah's senior leadership may be hiding; hitting fuel depots at the Beirut airport for a 2d time. In total, at least **38 Lebanese** (mostly civilians) are killed during the day, including **12 civilians** killed when the IDF targets a minibus in s. Lebanon. **Hizballah** responds by firing at least 30 rockets on n. Israel, including hitting Haifa with 3 rockets, shearing the front of an apartment building, wounding 6 Israelis. **Britain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine**, the U.S. begin evacuating their nationals. (NYT, WP 7/17; NYT, WP, WT 7/18)

18 JULY

The **IDF** withdraws troops fr. n. Gaza, leaving 60-130 **Palestinian homes** and a UNRWA clinic completely destroyed or uninhabitable; sends troops into al-Shuka village nr. Rafah, cutting electricity, bulldozing large areas of agricultural land, forcing 97 families (703 Palestinians) to flee their homes (UNRWA sets up 3 tent shelters in Jabaliya r.c. to house them); fires across the border into residential areas of Nussayrat r.c., wounding 1 Palestinian; shells and fires missiles fr. helicopters at areas in and around Abasan and nr. Khan Yunis; allows **EU monitors** to reopen the Rafah crossing for entry to Gaza; resumes shelling of n. Gaza late in the evening. **Palestinians** fire **2 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Bethlehem, raiding an apartment building, checking residents' IDs, detaining 1 Palestinian; raids, vandalizes an UNRWA office and a youth center

in Aida r.c.; raids the **Ramallah Governate offices** and the nearby office of the **Palestine News Agency (Wafa)**, vandalizing them, detaining 5 Palestinians, including 2 PA police officers; conducts late-night arrest raids, house searches in Jenin. **Unidentified gunmen** fire on the home of a senior **PSF** official, killing **1 bodyguard**, wounding 2. (OCHA 7/18; NYT 7/19; PCHR 7/20; OCHA 7/27)

The **IDF** strikes at least 110 targets across Lebanon, hitting a **Lebanese army** base (killing **11 soldiers**, wounding 35), a home in s. Lebanon (killing **9 Lebanese civilians**), targets in Baalbek; targets trucks in what is seen as a new campaign aimed at preventing Hizballah from relocating rockets, though most trucks hit are civilian ones bearing essential goods to Lebanese towns, including destroying a convoy in the Biqa' Valley carrying medical supplies fr. the UAE; continuing to destroy roads and bridges. At least **20 Lebanese** are killed during the day. The **IDF** confirms that small special forces teams have been conducting "pinpoint operations" in s. Lebanon, searching for arms caches and tunnels, withdrawing quickly; today some teams clash with **Hizballah mbrs.** reportedly leaving **2 IDF soldiers** dead, 3 injured. **Hizballah** fires up to 130 rockets at some 10 cities in n. Israel, killing **1 Israeli**, wounding around 20 in Nahariya, also hitting Haifa, Kiryat Shimona, Safad, Tiberias. The **UN** estimates that **500,000 Lebanese** (out of a population of 4 million) have fled their homes to escape the violence. **Lebanese** begin to report shortages and rising costs of essential items, such as food and gas; begin withdrawing cash from banks and converting money into dollars in preparation for long-term deflation and economic hardship. (AP 7/18; AP, REU 7/19; NYT, WP, WT 7/19)

19 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops back into central Gaza, engaging in heavy clashes with armed Palestinians in al-Maghazi r.c. that last throughout the day, occupying houses as sniper posts, cutting electricity to central Gaza, conducting air and artillery strikes, leaving **5 Hamas mbrs.**, **4 Palestinian bystanders** dead and 5 IDF soldiers, 93 Palestinians wounded (mostly militants, most with shrapnel fr. tank fire; also including 20 children). The **IDF** also continues to shell n. Gaza fr. land and sea. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends around 50 armored vehicles into Nablus in a major raid allegedly to

search for Palestinian militants "activated by **Hizballah**" to stage attacks on Israel, laying siege to the Nablus governorate building, the government compound (mostly destroyed during Operation Defensive Shield in 2002), 3 security force buildings, the central prison; forcing out and detaining around 150 Palestinians (many PA security officers); killing **3 armed AMB mbrs.** and **2 bystanders** (including a medic), wounding 33 (including 16 children, 2 Palestinian); demolishing the main PA security compound, at least 6 other PA buildings; occupying the **Palestinian Red Crescent Society** offices, preventing the movement of ambulances. The **IDF** also patrols in, fires on residential areas of Anabta nr. Tulkarm. (NYT, WP, WT 7/19; *Guardian*, ICRC press release, NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/20; NYT 7/21; IFM, NYT 7/22; PCHR 7/27)

The **IDF** continues to escalate air and artillery strikes across Lebanon. At least **58 Lebanese** (including at least 35 civilians) and **4 Israelis** (2 soldiers, 2 civilians) are killed during the day, bringing the comprehensive toll to at least **310 Lebanese** (overwhelmingly civilian) and **29 Israelis** (at least 15 civilians, 13 soldiers). Sites hit include Srifa nr. Tyre, where air strikes level at least 20 buildings, killing at least **21 Lebanese**, wounding 30, leaving as many as 80 unaccounted for; a Christian neighborhood in e. Beirut, hitting 2 well-drilling machines mistaken for rocket launchers in Ashrafiyya, causing no injuries; a bunker in s. Beirut believed to be housing Hizballah leaders, hit with 23 tons of explosives according to the IDF (Hizballah says the site was vacant); 2 **PFLP-GC** bases in the Biqa' Valley. The **IDF** also makes ground incursions into s. Lebanon, engaging **Hizballah** fighters; **2 Hizballah mbr.** and **2 IDF soldiers** are reportedly killed, 9 IDF soldiers injured, and 1 Israeli tank destroyed nr. Naqura. The **IDF** also clashes with **Hizballah mbrs.** who try to cross into n. Israel nr. Metula, chasing them back across the border, killing **2 Hizballah mbrs.** **Hizballah** retaliates by launching more than 100 rockets on n. Israel, hitting Haifa and, for the 1st time, Nazareth, where **2 Israeli Palestinian boys** are killed and 8 are wounded; 10s of light injuries occur elsewhere. Residents in s. Lebanon begin receiving tape-recorded phone messages fr. the IDF ordering them in Arabic to evacuate. Israel also interrupts Lebanese radio broadcasts to warn that any truck, including pickups, traveling s. of the Litani River would be assumed to be transporting

weapons and targeted. (AP, REU 7/19; NYT, WP, WT 7/20)

20 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** continues operations in al-Maghazi r.c., engaging in heavy clashes with local gunmen, killing **4 armed Palestinians** and **1 bystander**, wounding at least 32 (in addition, **1 Palestinian child** wounded in al-Maghazi on 7/19 dies of her injuries); drops leaflets across Gaza warning that "anyone who has . . . an arsenal, ammunition, or weapons in their house must destroy them or will face dangerous consequences." The **IDF** also continues to shell n. and s. Gaza to prevent rocket fire; makes air strikes on 2 groups of Palestinians allegedly laying roadside bombs (no injuries are reported); fires warning shots fr. gunboats to keep Palestinian fishermen fr. going out to sea. **Palestinians** fire at least **1 rocket** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly wounding **1 Israeli**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** continues major operations in Nablus, surrounding the local PA headquarters where a number of wanted Palestinians have taken refuge since fighting began on 7/19; 15 give themselves up during the day, but 10 remain inside, as IDF tanks shell the building and bulldozers begin to demolish the structure, troops fire on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them (wounding 5). Also in Nablus, some **4,000 Palestinians** demonstrate in support of **Hizballah**. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron; clears Palestinian trees nr. Har Homa settlement. (NYT, WP 7/21; IFM 7/22; PCHR 7/27)

Israel warns **Lebanese s. of the Litani River** that they have 24 hrs. to evacuate to the north. The **IDF** increases pinpoint ground operations in s. Lebanon, engaging in fierce clashes with **Hizballah**, leaving at least **2 IDF soldiers**, **2 Hizballah mbrs.** dead and 6 IDF soldiers injured; sends tanks, bulldozers across the n. border to destroy tunnels, bunkers, posts used by Hizballah (Hizballah claims to destroy 2 tanks; the IDF does not comment); continues air and artillery strikes on 150 targets across Lebanon, including Baalbek, Hermel, and al-Khiyam (destroying the infamous jail there, formerly run by Israel's proxy, the South Lebanon Army). Late in the evening, 2 IDF helicopters collide over n. Israel nr. the Lebanese border, killing at least **4 IDF soldiers**. **Hizballah** fires some 40 rockets at n. Israel, hitting Carmiel, Kiryat Shimona, Safad, Tiberias; there are no reported injuries. **Syria** reports

that more than 140,000 people have crossed over fr. Lebanon since the violence began. Some **10,000 foreigners** are evacuated by sea fr. Beirut and Tyre (including some 2,250 Americans and many Southeast Asian laborers evacuated by the Indian navy); **UNIFIL** evacuates its post at Naqura. Lebanese report that the cost of basic goods has risen 500% in some areas. (BBC, UNIS, WP 7/20; AP, NYT, WP, WT 7/21; WP 7/22)

21 JULY

Overnight, the **IDF** withdraws fr. al-Maghazi r.c., leaving a total of 207 d. of land, **4 Palestinian homes** demolished, 9 other homes partially demolished. Also in Gaza, the **IDF** fires a tank shell at a home in Gaza City, alleging that a **Hamass mbr.** on the roof was preparing to fire an RPG, killing a **handicapped Palestinian** on the roof, **3 relatives** inside, wounding 2; shells areas nr. Khan Yunis and the Sufa crossing in the south and in n. Gaza, wounding at least 6 Palestinian civilians. In the West Bank, the **IDF** withdraws troops fr. Nablus, ending a 3-day operation; before leaving, troops blow up the main government offices (killing a **Palestinian bystander**), fire on stone-throwing Palestinians youths, wounding 21. The **IDF** also conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya. (WP 7/21; NYT, PCHR 7/22; PCHR 7/27; B'Tselem 8/3)

The **IDF** calls up 3 battalions (several 1,000) additional reserves, positions troops and armor on the n. Israel border in preparation for "limited" ground operations to "mop up" **Hizballah** strongholds and weapons sites, continues pinpoint special forces operations inside s. **Lebanon**, urges residents to evacuate n. of the Litani River immediately (see 7/20; local officials estimate that 70% of the southern population has left). The **U.S.** approves **Israel's** request to expedite delivery of precision-guided missiles (including at least 25, possibly 100, 5,000-lb GBU-28 bunker busters) to maintain the intensity of IDF air strikes. **IDF** artillery hits a UN observation post in Zarit, s. Lebanon, causing extensive damage but no injuries; makes air strikes on the Beirut-Damascus highway and several bridges, targeting empty passenger busses returning fr. Syria after evacuating foreigners; continues air strikes on Baalbek (killing at least **5 Lebanese civilians**, wounding 20) and on s. Lebanon. At least **12 Lebanese** are killed during the day. **Hizballah** fires 35-50 rockets into n. Israel, 10 of them hitting Haifa (injuring 3 Israelis)

and others hitting Carmiel, Kiryat Shimona, Nahariya, Safad, Tiberias, and several n. Israeli villages. **Hizballah** acknowledges that **6 Hizballah mbrs.** have been killed since 7/12, whereas **Israel** claims that around 100 have been killed. **UN humanitarian relief coordinator Jan Egeland** estimates that **500,000 Lebanese** are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, but says that the UN cannot provide it without **Israel, Lebanon** guaranteeing safe corridors for movement of civilians and aid. Today, **Israel** allows 1 Greek ship carrying 22 tons of humanitarian goods to enter Beirut. (AP 7/21; NYT, WP, WT 7/22; NYT 8/11)

22 JULY

The **IDF** continues to shell n. Gaza, wounding at least 1 Palestinian civilian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. A **Palestinian militant** wounded during the 7/19–20 **IDF** raid on al-Maghazi r.c. dies of his injuries. (PCHR 7/27)

The **IDF** continues its troop build-up on the n. Israel border; artillery strikes and heavy air raids across Lebanon, incursions by small special forces units into the south. In its 1st major ground operation, the **IDF** sends some **2,000 soldiers**, a tank brigade, armor into Maroun al-Ras (a **Hizballah** stronghold, reportedly largely depopulated since fighting began) on the central s. Lebanese border, stating later that after heavy, close combat, it has taken control of the town and several surrounding villages; at least **3 Hizballah mbrs.**, as many as **7 IDF soldiers** may have been killed, several tanks disabled. Meanwhile, the **IDF** continues to warn s. Lebanon residents to move northward; Sidon reports some **35,000 displaced Lebanese** arriving in the city today; Tyre, the largest s. Lebanese town, reports that only around 5,000 of its 175,000 residents remain. Among the targets hit in **IDF** air strikes are TV and cell phone transmission towers n. of Beirut (killing at least **1 Lebanese**); **2 ICRC** ambulances nr. Qana, killing **1 patient** and injuring 6 medics, 2 patients; **Hizballah** targets in Baalbek, s. Beirut, Hermel, Sidon, Tyre. At least **8 Lebanese** are killed during the day. **Hizballah** fires some 130 rockets into n. Israel, wounding 10–20 Israelis (3 seriously); targets include Carmiel, Haifa, Kiryat Shimona, Nahariya, Safad. **Israel** allows some ships bearing humanitarian aid to enter Lebanese ports. (AFP 7/22; NYT, WP, WT 7/23; NYT 7/24; WP 7/25)

23 JULY

The **IDF** conducts air strikes on the home of a **Hamas** mbr. in Gaza City, causing severe damage; the **IDF** phoned the target's cell phone and local PA police before the strike to warn them to evacuate the house. The **IDF** also sends troops, bulldozers into the Erez industrial zone, firing on residential areas inside Gaza, wounding at least 1 Palestinian civilian. **Palestinians** fire around 12 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries; also fire on an **IDF** post at Erez crossing, causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin. Just after dawn, **3 armed Jewish settlers** break into a Palestinian home in Haris nr. Salfit, threaten residents; the **IDF** intervenes, stating that the Palestinians had "threatened the security of settlers." The **PA** makes payments of \$330 to each of 165,000 civil servants who have not received salaries since 3/06. (NYT, WP, WT 7/24; OCHA, PCHR 7/27)

The **IDF** continues air strikes across **Lebanon**, hitting **Hizballah** leadership posts in Beirut, targets in Sidon and the eastern Biqa' Valley, road traffic in s. Lebanon (including convoys of civilians heading north); ground troops in Maroun al-Ras move 2 mi deeper into Lebanon, engaging **Hizballah** mbrs. in Bint Jubayl. At least **8 Lebanese** (including a press photographer) are killed and 45 wounded during the day. **Hizballah** fires nearly 100 rockets on n. Israel, hitting Haifa (killing **1 Israeli, 1 Israeli Palestinian**; wounding 18). **Israel** says it has fired more than 20,000 artillery shells into Lebanon since 7/12. (NYT 7/23; NYT, WP, WT 7/24)

24 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** drops leaflets on and makes automated phone calls to residents in n. Gaza warning them to evacuate areas around rocket launch sites, buildings used by militants; shells Bayt Lahiya, killing **3 Palestinian civilians**, wounding 11 others (the **IDF** says a shell may have misfired); repeatedly shells Bayt Hanun and perimeter, killing **3 Palestinian civilians**, wounding 8; shells a shed on a farm nr. Gaza City, allegedly serving as a weapons depot. **IDF** troops stationed at the Dahaniyya airport fire on residential areas of nearby al-Shuka, wounding 1 Palestinian woman outside her home. **Palestinians** fire 8 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. Late in the evening, the **IDF** conducts air strikes

destroying 2 **Palestinian homes** in Gaza City and Khan Yunis (belonging to an **Islamic Jihad mbr.**), damaging surrounding stores and residences, wounding 3 bystanders; in both cases, the IDF phoned the homes 20 min. before the attack to warn residents to evacuate. The **IDF** also makes an air strike destroying a **house** of a **Hamas mbr.** under construction in Brazil r.c., also destroying 2 neighboring **homes**, damaging several others, wounding 15 bystanders (including 7 children). In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Beitunia nr. Ramallah; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Jericho, Tulkarm, and in 'Askar r.c., Azariyya, Jenin town and r.c.; bulldozes 35 d. of Palestinian land for construction of the **separation wall** nr. Jerusalem. (WP 7/24; NYT, WP 7/25; PCHR 7/27; B'Tselem 8/3)

IDF ground forces advance another half-mile into s. **Lebanon**, using bulldozers to clear roads and demolish buildings, engaging **Hizballah** mbrs. in Bint Jubayl and encountering artillery fire, antitank weapons, land mines, leaving 2 **IDF soldiers** dead, 14–20 **IDF** soldiers wounded, 2 **Hizballah** mbrs. captured, an unknown number of **Hizballah** casualties, up to 5 **IDF** tanks disabled; an **IDF** helicopter returning fr. Bint Jubayl crashes in the n. Galilee, killing another 2 **IDF soldiers**. Meanwhile, **IDF-Hizballah** clashes continue in Maroun al-Ras. The **IDF** also continues air strikes across Lebanon, targeting at least 70 **Hizballah** sites (particularly around Tyre), killing at least 7 **Lebanese civilians**; also hitting a UN post, injuring 4 **UNIFIL** soldiers. **Hizballah** fires around 80 rockets into n. Israel, injuring 20 Israelis, 2 seriously, and starting brush fires. (JAZ, NBC Nightly News, *Slate*, *Wall Street Journal* 7/24; NYT, WP, WT 7/25; WP 7/26)

25 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** shells areas nr. Khan Yunis, wounding 2 Palestinians and damaging an ambulance coming to their rescue; fires on a Palestinian family tending their fields nr. the border fence with Israel e. of al-Qarara, killing a **Palestinian** teenager; bulldozes 7 d. of agricultural land nr. al-Maghazi r.c. **Palestinians** fire several **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into al-Bireh for a day-long operation, imposes a curfew, surrounds 2 apartment buildings, occupies neighboring homes as sniper and observation posts, orders all residents out for ID checks, then raids the build-

ing arresting a wanted Palestinian; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem, Hebron (firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 1), Nablus; bulldozes 10s of d. of agricultural land nr. Bethlehem for construction of the **separation wall**. To protest **U.S. Secy. of State Condoleezza Rice's** mtg. with **Abbas** today, **Palestinians in Ramallah** observe a general strike, 100s conduct a protest march (some waving Lebanese flags). A **Jewish settler** fr. Beitar Ilit nr. Bethlehem fires on a 47-yr.-old Palestinian walking nearby, wounding him with a live bullet in the jaw. A **Jewish settler** fr. Tene Oranim in Hebron throws a grenade at Palestinian shepherds tending a flock nearby, wounding 1 Palestinian, killing 3 sheep. A **Palestinian** civilian injured during **IDF** operations in al-Maghazi r.c. on 7/19 dies. (NYT, WP, WT 7/26; PCHR 7/27)

The **IDF** conducts air and artillery strikes on a **UNIFIL** post in al-Khiyam, hitting the area 21 times (at least 11 of them air strikes), killing 4 **UNIFIL mbrs.**, continuing the aerial assault while rescue efforts are underway (see Quarterly Update for details); continues air strikes in s. Beirut and across s. Lebanon, especially in Nabatiyya (where at least 6 **Lebanese civilians** are killed when 2 homes are hit by missiles), Tyre. Ground battles involving **IDF** tank and **Hizballah** antitank fire, fierce house-to-house combat supported by **IDF** artillery and helicopter fire continue in Bint Jubayl and Maroun al-Ras and are reported in Yaron to the west; by nightfall, the **IDF** claims to have secured control of Bint Jubayl, killed **senior Hizballah cmdr. Abu Jaafir** and 20–30 **Hizballah mbrs.**, though there is no independent confirmation; at least 3 **IDF** soldiers are wounded. **Hizballah** fires more than 90 rockets into n. Israel, killing an **Israeli Druze** in Maghir, injuring 30 Israelis (mostly suffering fr. shock); other targets include Haifa, Ma'alot, Nahariya, Safad, Tiberias. (NYT, WP, WT 7/26; NYT 7/27)

26 JULY

The **IDF** expands Operation Summer Rains overnight, sending 50 tanks, troops back into n. Gaza in and around Gaza City, engaging in intense clashes with and conducting air strikes on Palestinian gunmen, leaving at least 7 **Hamas mbrs.**, 5 **Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, 9 **civilians** dead, at least 57 Palestinians wounded, bulldozing wide tracts of land. In at least 3 incidents in Jabaliya r.c., the **IDF** phones **Hamas** mbrs.

warning them to evacuate their houses, then conducts air strikes destroying the **homes**. The **IDF** also closes the Qarni crossing. **Palestinians** fire 13 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly injuring 1 Israeli in Sederot. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units in a car with Palestinian license plates into Kafr Qadim nr. Qalqilya, surrounds a home, evacuates and checks residents, demolishes the **home**, arrests 1 Palestinian, injures 1; bars a **Palestinian** heart attack victim fr. crossing a checkpoint to reach a Qalqilya hospital, allowing him to die; patrols, searches cars in Yatta nr. Hebron; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, and in al-Fara'a r.c. nr. Jenin, Nablus. In Rafah, a **Palestinian** is killed in an exchange of fire btwn. **PA security forces**, armed Palestinians. Israeli security sources reveal that **Israeli-Canadian citizen Falah**, arrested on 7/8 and held without access to a lawyer, was detained for photographing a military antenna nr. Ras al-Naqura, alleging that he was sent "to photograph and report where rockets have landed in Israel," noting that he visited Beirut, Tehran within the last 2 yrs.; Falah, who was arrested before Hizballah's 7/12 cross-border raid and the firing of rockets into Israel, said the photos were for academic purposes, he did not know the antenna was military, and his trips to Lebanon, Iran were public knowledge. (REU, NYT, WP 7/26; NYT, WP, WT 7/26; PCHR 7/27; OCHA 8/2; PCHR 8/3)

The **IDF** faces intense fighting in **s. Lebanon**, where some **100 Hizballah mbrs.** ambush an elite **IDF Golani Brigade unit** in Bint Jubayl, pinning them down for 1 hr. under a heavy barrage of mortars, antitank rounds, RPGs, and small-arms fire before they could return fire, killing **8 IDF soldiers**, wounding at least 22; the IDF estimates that it killed around **20 Hizballah mbrs.** A **9th IDF soldier** is killed, 5 are wounded by antitank fire in clashes nr. Maroun al-Ras. Meanwhile, the **IDF** continues air strikes nr. Beirut and in **s. Lebanon**, including hitting an **Amal** command center and the Hizballah headquarters in Tyre. In Anjar nr. the Syrian border, a truck carrying emergency food, medical supplies donated by the **UAE** (see 7/18) is hit, killing the **Syrian driver**. **Hizballah** fires around 150 rockets into Israel, striking Carmiel, Haifa, Jish, Safad, Tiberias. **Israel** allows 2 **Jordanian** military transports carrying humanitarian aid to land at Beirut airport, though it still will not provide safety guarantees for trucks transporting the supplies southward

on the coastal highway or across the border fr. Syria, where relief goods for 20,000 people have been stockpiled. The **UN** moves 5 convoys of supplies (containing wheat, soap, diapers, water purification tablets, medical kits) to the south on 5 routes approved for one-time use by the IDF. (NYT, WP, WT 7/27)

27 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** closes the Nahal Oz pipeline; shells areas nr. Gaza City, killing at least **1 Palestinian militant**, **1 Palestinian farmer** working in her field; shells areas nr. Bayt Hanun (killing **1 Palestinian child** outside his home, wounding 5 Palestinians), in al-Shuka; makes air strikes destroying 3 houses nr. Bayt Lahiya (killing **1 Palestinian bystander**), in Bayt Hanun, Khan Yunis (also destroying 2 adjacent homes). In Jerusalem, a **Palestinian gunman** fires on **Israeli police**, wounding 2 before being shot dead. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Jenin r.c. in cars with Palestinian license plates, surrounds a home, opens fire (wounding a Palestinian bystander in an apartment building nearby), occupying several surrounding houses as sniper positions, evacuates and checks IDs of residents, arrests 1 Palestinian, fires on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 8 Palestinians (including 2 journalists covering the incident for al-Jazeera, Reuters); patrols in al-Bireh; begins construction of a new segment of the **separation wall** in Bayt Jala that will cut Palestinians off fr. 5,000 d. of agricultural land and cut off the access of Battir and Husan Nahalin villages to Bethlehem. The body of a **Jewish settler** fr. Yakir missing since early in the morning is found in a burnt-out vehicle nr. a West Bank Palestinian village; the **AMB** takes responsibility for kidnapping, killing him. In Israel, **Israeli police** free **dual Israeli-Canadian citizen Falah** after a Haifa District Court orders the police and/or Shin Bet to file formal charges against him or let him go (see 7/26). A **Palestinian** wounded during the 7/26 IDF raid on Kafr Qadim dies. A **2d Palestinian** dies of injuries received during IDF operations in Nablus on 7/19. (OCHA 7/27; NYT 7/28; NYT 7/29; PCHR 8/3)

Israel's security cabinet approves call-ups for up to 3 divisions of reservists (15,000–30,000 reserves) for the war on **Lebanon**. The **IDF** makes some 180 air and artillery strikes on targets across

Lebanon, including hitting radio and TV relays in Amshit n. of Beirut, 3 trucks in the Bīqa' Valley carrying emergency food supplies to Beirut. Ground clashes continue in Bint Jubayl, 2 residential apartment buildings nr. an **Amal** headquarters in Tyre; a Lebanese army base in n. Lebanon; roads, buildings in s. Lebanon and the Bīqa' Valley, including al-Khiyam, Kafr, Nabatiyya, Sidon, Tuffah, Riyāq, Zahleh. The **IDF** broadcasts radio warnings to s. Lebanon residents that their villages would be "totally destroyed" if rockets are fired fr. them. **Hizballah** fires some 110 rockets into n. Israel, wounding 7 Israelis and hitting an empty factory in Haifa, also hitting sites in Carmiel, Nahariya Safad, Tiberias. (IFM 7/27; NYT, WP, WT 7/28)

28 JULY

The **IDF** withdraws troops fr. the outskirts of Gaza City, where residents find the bodies of another **Hamas mbr.** and a **13-yr.-old Palestinian** killed during recent clashes, 9 **Palestinian homes** completely demolished, 16 partially destroyed, at least 80 d. of agricultural land razed; conducts an air strike destroying a shed nr. the Rafah border allegedly hiding a smugglers tunnel. **Palestinians** fire **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, lightly wounding 2 Israelis. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Azun nr. Qalqilya, fires on stone-throwing youths who confront them, wounding 1; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem. (NYT, WT 7/29; PCHR 8/3)

The **IDF** continues air and artillery strikes across **Lebanon**, including making about 70 air strikes on Baruk in the central Bīqa' valley, hitting a convoy of civilian vehicles evacuating Rmaysh in s. Lebanon, wounding a journalist. Ground fighting continues in Bint Jubayl, where the **IDF** claims at least 26 **Hizballah mbrs.** are killed; 6 **IDF** soldiers wounded. **Hizballah** for the 1st time fires 2 **Khaybar-1 rockets** (range up to 50 mi, payload up to 200 lb), striking Afula, 30 mi inside Israel, just n. of the West Bank; fires more than 100 rockets into n. Israel during the day, wounding 14 Israelis and hitting targets in Carmiel, Ma'a lot, Nahariya, Safad, Tiberias. (AP, ICRC press release 7/28; NYT, WP, WT 7/29)

29 JULY

In Gaza, the **IDF** sends troops back into s. Gaza to search for a reported tunnel on the Gaza-Egypt border, cuts power to Rafah,

makes an air strike on a building in Gaza City that allegedly holds a weapons cache; makes air strikes destroying 2 **Palestinian homes** in n. Gaza after phoning residents (at least 1 of them an **AMB mbr.**) to warn them to evacuate, also destroying 1 home nearby; shells residential areas of n. Gaza without warning (hitting 4 Palestinian homes, injuring 3 Palestinians), al-Shuka (wounding 2 Palestinians); temporarily occupies the Erez industrial zone, withdrawing after nightfall; sends bulldozers into southeastern Khan Yunis to raze 100 d. of agricultural land. **UNRWA** reports that it is housing in its schools some **1,200 Palestinians** who have fled n. Gaza to escape **IDF** shelling. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Nablus to assassinate **local Islamic Jihad military cmdr. Hani Uwayjan, a Palestinian civilian** with him; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Qalqilya; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Jenin, wounding 1 Palestinian. A **Palestinian civilian** wounded by **IDF** fire in Gaza City on 7/27 dies. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 7/30; PCHR 8/3)

The **IDF** keeps up intensive air and artillery strikes across **Lebanon**, targeting the Beirut-Damascus highway (closing the Syrian border crossing for the 1st time since 7/12; though the road is used primarily by civilians trying to flee the country and aid workers bringing in humanitarian assistance, Israel claims it targeted the road to prevent arms smuggling), killing at least 6 **Lebanese civilians**, wounding 2 **UNIFIL** monitors. During the day, the **IDF** withdraws troops fr. Bint Jubayl, claiming to have destroyed **Hizballah's** elaborate network of tunnels and storage areas, but continues air and artillery strikes and keeps troops in the area, saying they could be sent back in at any time. **Hizballah** fires at least 90 rockets into Israel. **Israel** allows military planes delivering aid fr. **Egypt, Jordan, the UAE** to land at Beirut airport; a warship fr. **Turkey** brings medical supplies into Beirut port; a **U.S.** naval catamaran brings blankets, tarps, medical kits; aid workers in Lebanon complain that it is still too dangerous to transport aid supplies, that the **IDF** still requires convoy-by-convoy approval to move the aid to hard-hit areas. (NYT, WP, WT 7/30)

30 JULY

The **IDF** reopens the Nahal Oz pipeline (closed 7/27), the Qarni crossing to imports only (closed 7/26; exports have been banned

since 6/23); makes an air strike destroying a **Palestinian home** nr. Bayt Lahiya after phoning the residents and warning them to leave; makes an air strike severely damaging the Gaza City home of a PA police officer, claiming he was storing weapons for militants (the officer was warned to evacuate; denies storing weapons); continues to shell residential areas of al-Shuka, wounding 1 Palestinian. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols, randomly checks IDs of residents in Qalqilya; conducts house searches in Bethlehem (targeting the home of a PA security officer), nr. Tulkarm. Some **5,000 Palestinians** demonstrate outside the UN compound in Gaza City to protest the IDF's attack on Qana, Lebanon, overnight (see below). A **PSF officer** is shot, wounded by unidentified armed Palestinians in Khan Yunis. A **Palestinian** wounded in the 7/19 IDF assault on al-Maghazi dies. (PCHR 8/3)

Overnight, the **IDF** drops 2 2,000-lb MK-84 guided missiles on a 3-story residential building in Qana in s. Lebanon killing at least **28 Lebanese** (including 16 children), wounding 9, and leaving **11 missing and presumed dead** (including 6 children; initial reports say 57 Lebanese are killed, including 37 children, and 8 are wounded but Lebanese government, hospital, independent reports downgrade the figures by 8/3); the **Israeli FMin.** issues a statement blaming Qana residents for ignoring IDF warnings to leave. U.S. Secy. of State **Rice**, in Israel to discuss a cease-fire, announces that she will return to Washington but succeeds in securing **Israel's** agmt. to a 48-hr. partial suspension of air strikes on s. Lebanon, including a 24-hr. window for **relief agencies** to transport goods and civilians; **Israel** says it will observe the suspension until the IDF "detects an imminent launch" of **Hizballah** rockets, but ground operations in s. Lebanon, air and artillery strikes n. of the Litani would continue. During the day, the **IDF** launches new ground operations in southeastern Lebanon nr. Taybeh and n. of the Israeli town of Metula, reporting 8 IDF soldiers wounded, **3 Hizballah mbrs.** killed; makes air and artillery strikes across Lebanon, including in Yarun (killing at least **5 Lebanese civilians**); calls on **UNIFIL** to evacuate Aita al-Sha'b, Ramieh before sunset (UNIFIL refuses to comply). **Hizballah** fires more than 150 rockets into Israel in the heaviest barrage since the conflict began on 7/12, with some 80 rockets hitting Kiryat Shmona. (IFM, JAZ, UNIS 7/30; NYT, WP, WT 7/31; NYT 8/1; WT 8/4)

31 JULY

The **IDF** shells areas of n. Gaza, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian**, wounding a 4-yr.-old outside their homes; detains 2 unarmed Palestinians attempting to sneak into Israel nr. al-Maghazi r.c. to find work. In the West Bank, the **IDF** bans Palestinians fr. entering Israel; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron, Tulkarm (searching **Change and Reform** offices and nearby Internet café, damaging computers; the Palestinian Media and Studies Center, confiscating computers, files; an Islamic women's charity and sports club, vandalizing furniture, confiscating files). For a 2d day, a **PSF officer** is shot, wounded by unidentified armed Palestinians nr. Khan Yunis. (NYT 8/1; NYT 8/2; PCHR 8/3; OCHA 8/9)

Overnight, the 48-hour partial suspension of **Israeli** air strikes on s. **Lebanon** goes into effect (2:00 A.M. local time 7/31; 7:00 P.M. ET 7/30). Within hrs., the **IDF** launches air strikes in support of ground troops in Taybeh, at a Lebanese army jeep traveling nr. Qasmiyya n. of Tyre (based on false information that a senior Hizballah mbr. was in the car, killing **1 Lebanese soldier**, wounding 3). The **Israeli cabinet** also approves plans to "expand and deepen" ground operations in s. **Lebanon**. With air strikes eased, **Lebanese rescue workers** begin combing bombed-out cars and destroyed buildings in villages in s. Lebanon, finding at least **49 bodies** during the day, but **relief agencies** report that the **IDF** is still demanding that aid convoys coordinate their routes with the IDF on a case-by-case basis despite the 24-hr. window for humanitarian operations. The **IDF** also conducts some air strikes nr. the Syrian border and on Bint Jubayl; continues ground operations in Aita al-Sha'b, Kafr Kila, Maroun al-Ras. **Hizballah** launches 3-4 mortars into Kiryat Shmona, but no rockets. The **Lebanese government** warns that the country has only a few days' fuel supply remaining and once it runs out, provision of normal health care and relief aid will cease. (Israeli Prime Minister's Office transcript 7/31; BBC 8/1; NYT, WP, WT 8/1)

1 AUGUST

The **IDF** sends troops back into s. Gaza nr. Dahaniyya airport allegedly to look for tunnels; makes air strikes on, shells n. Gaza, killing a **16-yr.-old Palestinian boy**, a **24-yr.-old Palestinian woman**, wounding 4 other bystanders in Bayt Hanun; makes

an air strike destroying the al-Bureij home of a **Hamas** mbr. (warned by cell phone in advance to evacuate), also damaging 4 nearby homes; shells the Gaza harbor fr. the sea, hitting 2 boats, an office, a car, and a cabin owned by alleged arms smuggler Abbas Bakr, causing no injuries. **Palestinians** fire 6 **rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, damaging a home but causing no injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Hebron. A **13-yr.-old Palestinian girl** dies of injuries received in the 7/26 **IDF** shelling nr. Gaza City. (BBC 8/1; NYT, WP 8/2; PCHR 8/3)

The **IDF** intensifies ground operations in Lebanon, sending up to **7,000 troops** (6 combat brigades) into villages in a zone of the south stretching fr. Aita al-Sha'b (where **3 IDF soldiers** are killed and at least 25 wounded; more than **20 Hizballah mbrs.** are reported killed) nr. the center of the southern border, to Bint Jubayl and Maroun al-Ras to the east, and to Taybeh and Kafr Kila to the north where the Litani approaches the Israeli border. The **IDF** makes a bungled assault on Baalbek in the Biqa' Valley, bombing the area, landing troops by helicopter, raiding a hospital (where intelligence reports state Hizballah leader **Nasrallah** is hiding), clashing with Hizballah mbrs., undertaking house-to-house searches, killing **10 Hizballah mbrs.**, **24 Lebanese civilians** and arresting 5 alleged Hizballah mbrs. (including a local store owner named Hasan Nasrallah), flying them back to Israel; Israel releases the 5 on 8/22. The **IDF** says it has left intact 2 bridges across the Litani (nr. Tyre in the west, Hasabiyya in the east) so civilians can escape to the north; denies passage to 10 convoys of humanitarian aid, but authorizes at least 2 oil tankers to deliver fuel to Beirut, though without providing guarantees of their safety (without which the ships say they cannot proceed to port). **Rescue workers** report finding another **39 bodies** in villages across s. Lebanon. **Hizballah** fires 8 rockets, 4 mortars into Nahariya. (BBC 8/1; NYT, WP, WT 8/2; Counterpunch 8/3; NYT 8/23)

2 AUGUST

In Gaza, the **IDF** shells residential areas of al-Shuka, wounding 3 Palestinians (ages 4, 6, 65), cutting electricity to parts of Rafah. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Jenin town and r.c.; conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Hebron and in al-Bireh, Qalqilya. A **PSF officer** is fa-

tally shot by unknown Palestinian gunmen in Khan Yunis. (WP 8/2; PCHR 8/3; OCHA 8/9; PCHR 8/10)

Overnight, the 48-hr. easing of **Israeli** air strikes in s. **Lebanon** passes. **IDF** steps up ground operations, clashing with **Hizballah** mbrs. in 11 towns across s. Lebanon concentrated within 2-4 mi. of the border, leaving **1 IDF soldier** dead and 9 wounded, mostly in Aita al-Sha'b. The **IDF** also lands troops in Baalbek for a 2d day, where they clash with Hizballah, reportedly killing **10 Hizballah mbrs.** and **25 Lebanese civilians**, capturing 5 Hizballah mbrs. **IDF** air strikes across Lebanon also escalate, including targeting Lebanese army bases in Sarba (killing **1 Lebanese soldier**) and nr. Sidon (killing **3 Lebanese soldiers**). **Hizballah** fires some 230 rockets into Israel, killing **1 Israeli civilian**, wounding at least 33, hitting sites in Kibbutz Saar, Ma'alot, Nahariya; a **Khaybar-1 rocket** lands outside Jenin, 43 mi fr. the border, causing no damage or injuries. (AP 8/2; NYT, WP, WT 8/3)

3 AUGUST

Overnight, the **IDF** launches ground operations in al-Shuka, using helicopters, drones, and some 50 tanks, armored vehicles, bulldozers; seals off Dahaniyya airport, the eastern entrance to Rafah, the main north-south Gaza highway; makes heavy air and artillery strikes on residential areas throughout the day, with **Palestinian militants** retaliating with antitank and light weapons fire, leaving **2 Hamas mbrs.**, **2 Islamic Jihad mbrs.**, **1 PA security officer**, **5 bystanders** dead and more than 30 Palestinians wounded (including at least 8 militants, 18 civilians). **Palestinians** fire 4 rockets toward Israel, but all land inside Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Qalqilya and in 'Ayn al-Sultan r.c. nr. Jericho, Balata r.c., Hebron, Nablus. (NYT, PCHR, WP, WT 8/3; NYT, WP 8/4; PCHR 8/10)

The **IDF** operates in 20 villages in s. **Lebanon**, most of them less than 2 mi. inside the border, engaging in intense clashes with **Hizballah** (particularly in Bint Jubayl, Maroun al-Ras, Marwahin, Rajmin), with Hizballah killing **4 IDF soldiers**, wounding 4, destroying at least 4 APCs in Aita al-Sha'b and Taybeh. The **IDF** also continues air strikes across Lebanon, including in s. Beirut (hitting houses of senior **Hizballah** and **Hamas** mbrs.), Blat, Nabatiyya, Rashaya,

Taybeh, in the Biqua' Valley, and in the far n. nr. the border with Syria. **Hizballah** fires around 180 rockets into n. Israel, killing **5 Israeli civilians** in Acre and **3 bedouin** in Tarshiha nr. Ma'alot (all 8 killed during a 1-hr. barrage of 40 rockets), also hitting Kiryat Shimona (in another barrage of 30 rockets). (BBC, JAZ, NYT 8/3; AP, NYT, WP, WT 8/4)

4 AUGUST

The **IDF** continues operations al-Shuka, making air and artillery strikes on buildings allegedly housing **Hamas** and **Islamic Jihad** weapons caches, exchanging fire with Palestinian gunmen, conducting house-to-house searches, prompting residents to flee, leaving **2 Palestinian civilians**, **1 Palestinian militant** dead, at least 1 Palestinian wounded. Late in the evening, the **IDF** expands operations deeper into Rafah, making air strikes on militant targets in heavily residential areas, killing **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.**, **2 other armed Palestinians**, **a Palestinian woman** and **her 2 children**, wounding at least 3 Palestinians; also destroys the remaining parts of a PA security barracks. Also in Gaza, the **IDF** makes an air strike destroying a **home** in Shatti r.c. nr. Gaza City after warning residents to evacuate. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids in Tulkarm town; patrols in Tulkarm r.c.; conducts random ID checks in Hebron. The **IDF** also bars Palestinians under age 45 fr. attending Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. (NYT 8/4; WP 8/5; PCHR 8/10)

The **IDF** calls up more reservists (no details reported), moves additional artillery to the border with **Lebanon**; escalates air strikes on s. Beirut (killing at least **1 Lebanese soldier**, wounding 2 soldiers, 4 civilians), hitting bridges and roads in Christian areas n. of the capital along the coast for the 1st time (killing at least **5 Lebanese civilians**, wounding 19; hitting an 8-truck UN convoy, preventing the movement of other aid convoys south); also strikes targets in s. Lebanon (flattening 2 houses, leaving 50 Lebanese missing) as well as in Baalbek, Hermel, Qana (killing at least **28 farm workers, mostly Syrian Kurds**) in the Biqua' Valley. Ground operations in s. Lebanon continue, with especially intense fighting in Aita al-Sha'b, Markaba (where at least **3 IDF soldiers** are killed and 1 tank is destroyed), Taybeh. **Hizballah** fires 195 rockets into n. Israel, hitting Buaineh, Carmiel, Hadera (50 mi. fr. the border, the deepest strike to

date), Kiryat Shimona (hit by 60 missiles), Ma'alot, Migdal Hamek, Nahariya, Qunaytra, Safad, Shar Yishuv; killing **4 Israelis** (including 3 Druze; 1 in Maghir, 2 in Majd al-Krum) wounding 8. (AP, NYT 8/4; NYT, WP, WT 8/5)

5 AUGUST

The **IDF** continues operations in Rafah and al-Shuka, firing on and shelling residential areas, conducting house-to-house searches, forcing some 400 Palestinian families to flee their homes, killing **1 Palestinian civilian**, wounding at least 13 civilians. The **IDF** also shells areas around Bayt Hanun, wounding at least 2 Palestinians; fires across the border fr. Israel at Palestinian farmers working their land nr. al-Maghazi r.c., wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** arrests **PA parliament speaker 'Aziz Dwayk (Change and Reform)** in his Ramallah home on charges of being a mbr. of a terrorist organization (Hamas); conducts random ID checks in Dahaysha r.c. (firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 2), Tubas; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Bethlehem, Jenin town and r.c., Nablus; burns 30 d. of agricultural land btwn. the **separation wall** and the Green Line nr. Tulkarm, barring fire engines fr. reaching the scene. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received in the 7/16 **IDF** air strike on the PA FMin. offices in Gaza City. (NYT, PCHR 8/5; NYT, WP, WT 8/6; NYT 8/7; PCHR 8/10)

Overnight, the **IDF** makes air strikes outside a Palestinian r.c. s. of Tyre, wounding 1 person, lands 2 naval commando units (reportedly wearing Lebanese army uniforms) nearby, raids an apartment building housing Hizballah mbrs. allegedly involved in long-range rocket attacks on Israel, clashing with Hizballah mbrs. for 3 hrs., killing **4 suspected Hizballah mbrs.**, **1 Lebanese soldier** at a nearby checkpoint, **2 bystanders** before withdrawing. During the day, the **IDF** continues air strikes, hitting 170 targets in s. Beirut, and n. of Hermel; drops leaflets over Sidon, warning residents to leave prior to imminent strikes there; continues ground operations in some 20 villages in s. Lebanon, leaving **2 IDF soldiers** dead, at least 9 wounded in clashes in Aita al-Sha'b, Taybeh. **Hizballah** fires 160 rockets into n. Israel (140 of them in a 90 min. period in the evening), killing **3 Israeli Palestinians** in Arab al-Aramshe, also hitting

targets in Haifa, Kiryat Shimona, Ma'alot, Nahariya, Safad, Shlomi, Tiberias, wounding a total of 54 Israelis. (NYT 8/5; NYT, WP, WT 8/6)

6 AUGUST

Overnight, the **IDF** pulls troops out of Rafah and al-Shuka and back into the Dahanhiyya airport, ending a 3-day offensive; troops go back into al-Shuka briefly during the day to surround, evacuate, blow up a **Palestinian home**, also bulldozing 20 d. of surrounding agricultural land. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes an air strike destroying a **Palestinian home** nr. Bayt Lahiya, damaging 2 others after warning residents by phone to evacuate. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into Silat al-Harithiyya nr. Jenin, occupies a house as a sniper post, shoots and assassinates wanted **Islamic Jihad mbr. Sami al-Imari**; arrests, searches the Ramallah home of **Change and Reform PC mbr. Fadl Hamdan**; conducts arrest raids, house searches and fires on residential areas of Shayukh nr. Hebron in a raid targeting the **AMB**; searches vehicles, an Internet café in Hebron; issues military orders confiscating 10s of d. of agricultural land southwest of Hebron for construction of the **separation wall**. **Jewish settlers** driving nr. Nablus open fire at a Palestinian truck driving ahead of them, killing a **48-yr.-old Palestinian**, wounding his son. **Unidentified gunmen** ambush the car of the **PA military intelligence head** for n. Gaza as it drives through Jabaliya, wounding him, 2 passengers. (OCHA 8/9; PCHR 8/10)

The **IDF** intensifies air strikes across **Lebanon**, hitting targets in s. Beirut, Ansar, al-Jibbayn, Nabatiyya, Naqura, Qana, Tyre (striking within 40 yards of a UN humanitarian aid convoy traveling with prior coordination with the IDF, hitting a car traveling in the opposite direction), killing **10s of Lebanese civilians, several Lebanese soldiers, 1 PFLP-GC mbr.** Ground operations continue across s. Lebanon, with Hizballah claiming to disable 4 tanks (in Adassiyya, Ras al-Biyada, Wadi Hunin), acknowledging the death of **3 Hizballah mbrs.** The **IDF** says that it has taken prisoner 22-yr.-old **Hizballah mbr. Hasan Ali Sulayman**, who has allegedly admitted under interrogation to involvement in the 7/12 capture of 2 IDF soldiers. **Hizballah** fires around 160 rockets into n. Israel, killing **3 Israeli civilians** (1 an Israeli Palestinian) in Haifa, and killing **12 IDF reservists**, wounding 5 in Kfar Gi-

ladi on the border with Lebanon. (REU 8/6; NYT, WP, WT 8/7; IFM 8/8; PCHR 8/10)

7 AUGUST

In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Azun in a car with Palestinian license plates, surrounds a home, arrests 1 **PSF mbr.** who surrenders; conducts random ID checks in, fires on residential areas of Kaf Dan nr. Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Jenin and Nablus, in Dahaysha r.c., nr. Bethlehem, Hebron; burns 70 d. of agricultural land btwn. the **separation wall** and the Green Line nr. Tulkarm (see 8/5). In Ramallah, **7 Palestinians** working in the PC building are taken to the hospital with breathing difficulties after opening a suspicious letter addressed to PM **Haniyeh**; the building is evacuated. The **PA head of military intelligence** for n. Gaza dies of injuries received in an ambush in Jabaliya r.c. on 8/6; no group claims responsibility. (AP 8/7; WP 8/8; OCHA 8/9; PCHR 8/10)

Overnight, the **IDF** destroys the last remaining bridge over the Litani River linking n. and s. **Lebanon**; this cuts off access to Tyre. The **IDF** announces a 10:00 P.M. curfew on Tyre, saying that any movement there after dark and any vehicular traffic s. of the Litani River at any time will henceforth be considered Hizballah activity and a legitimate target. As UN mbrs. narrow differences on a cease-fire res. (see Quarterly Update), **Olmert's security cabinet** discusses speeding up the IDF's advance to the Litani River, escalating attacks on Lebanon's civilian infrastructure. During the day, the **IDF** continues heavy air, artillery strikes on some 150 targets across Lebanon, hitting s. Beirut (including 47 killed, 70 wounded in the Christian-Shi'i suburb of al-Shiyah, where Shi'a are pro-Amal), the Biqa' Valley (including Baalbek, Masnaa), in and around Nabatiyya (including 7 civilians killed in air strikes on cars traveling in Qasmiyya; 15 killed, 20 wounded in an air strike on an apartment building in Ghaziyya), and across s. Lebanon (including demolishing a 4-building apartment complex in Tyre), killing at least **69 Lebanese civilians**; continues ground operations across s. Lebanon that leave **3 IDF soldiers** dead, 7 wounded in Bint Jubayl and include heavy fighting in Hula (the IDF claims to kill at least **15 Hizballah mbrs.**); downs an unmanned Hizballah drone off the s. Lebanon coast. **Hizballah**

fires 130 rockets into n. Israel, injuring 10 Israelis, hitting targets in Acre, Carmiel, Kiryat Shimona (70 rockets), Ma'alot, Nahariya, Safad. The **ICRC** says that the **IDF** has barred humanitarian aid missions to the south for 3 days. (BBC, NYT, WP 8/7; BBC, NYT, WP, WT 8/8; WP, WT 8/9; WP 8/10)

8 AUGUST

The **IDF** closes the Qarni crossing, Nahal Oz pipeline for the day; fires across the Israeli border at a group of children in a bedouin village nr. Bayt Lahiya, wounding 1. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Hebron, Jenin (firing on stone-throwing youths who confront the troops, wounding 5); patrols in Tubas, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront them, wounding 3. (PCHR 8/10)

Israel announces that it will evacuate to s. Israel within 24 hrs. some **15,000 Israelis** from the north who cannot afford to leave on their own, suggesting that the **IDF** intends a major escalation against Lebanon. In **Lebanon**, the **IDF** continues air and artillery strikes, hitting targets in s. Beirut, s. Lebanon (including killing **13 Lebanese** in Ghaziyya s. of Sidon), the Biq'a Valley. Ground offensives also continue in s. Lebanon, with heavy clashes reported in Aytrun, Bint Jubayl (where the **IDF** claims to have killed **30 Hizballah mbrs.**), Dibil (where **1 IDF soldier** is killed), Labuna (where **2 IDF soldiers** are killed); another **2 IDF soldiers** are killed elsewhere and 23 wounded. **Hizballah** fires 160 rockets into n. Israel, hitting Acre, Fazouta, Ma'alot, Nahariya, Safad, Tiberias. The **WHO** warns that if within 5 days Israel does not provide safety guarantees for oil tankers bringing fuel shipments to Lebanon (see 8/1), 60% of hospitals in Lebanon will "simply cease to function." (BBC, Marketplace 8/8; BBC, HA, NYT, WP, WT 8/9)

9 AUGUST

In Gaza, the **IDF** closes the Nahal Oz pipeline, Qarni crossing for the day; makes an air strike on a group of **PRC mbrs.** n. of Gaza City, killing **2 PRC mbrs.**, a **3-yr.-old girl** in a house nearby, wounding 2 **PRC mbrs.**; makes air strikes destroying the home of an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** in Bayt Hanun, a 2d home elsewhere in Gaza (warning residents to leave beforehand). A **Palestinian** is killed in Jabaliya r.c. when

he accidentally detonates unexploded **IDF** ordnance. In the West Bank, the **IDF** also makes air strikes on a house in Jenin r.c., assassinating **Islamic Jihad mbrs. Amjad al-'Ajami, Muhammad Atik**, wounding 12 bystanders (including 7 children); conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron and Jenin, in Nablus, nr. Tulkarm (targeting **PA security force mbrs.**). (BBC, REU 8/9; PCHR 8/10; OCHA 8/16; PCHR 8/17)

The **Israeli security cabinet** approves plans to expand ground operations in s. **Lebanon**, speed **IDF** deployment to the Litani River. The **IDF** immediately begins reinforcing troops on the n. Israel border (anticipating a build-up of as many as 5,000 troops) and moves an additional 1,000 troops into s. Lebanon. The **IDF** continues air, naval, and artillery strikes across Lebanon, shelling 'Ayn al-Hilwa r.c. (allegedly targeting the home of a **Hizballah mbr.**, killing at least **2 persons**, wounding 5), making an air strike on an apartment in Mashghara in the Biq'a Valley just n. of the Litani (killing a **Hizballah official, 8 family mbrs.**), hitting targets in s. Beirut. Ground operations also continue in s. Lebanon, with heavy clashes reported in Aita al-Sha'b (4 **IDF soldiers** killed), Bint Jubayl, Dibil (9 **IDF soldiers** killed), Labuna, Jibbayn, al-Khiyam, Marja'uyun (1 **IDF soldier** killed), Qantara, Taybeh, resulting in Israel's highest daily toll to date, with **15 IDF soldiers** dead and 38 wounded; the **IDF** claims to have killed **40 Hizballah mbrs.** **Hizballah** fires some 170 rockets into n. Israel, hitting targets in Acre, Kiryat Shimona, Ma'alot, Safad. (BBC, HA, IFM, NYT, WP 8/9; NYT, WP, WT 8/10)

10 AUGUST

In Gaza, the **IDF** opens Rafah crossing for departures only, opens Qarni crossing for imports only; makes late-night air strikes destroying a store, house in Jabaliya r.c. (warning the residents in advance to leave), damaging 3 nearby homes. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends undercover units into Tulkarm in a car with Palestinian license plates, surrounds the home of a wanted **Hamas mbr.**, fires on the home, arrests the wanted man when he surrenders; sends troops into Ramallah, occupying offices in the PA Public Works Min. as an observation post, surrounding an apartment building, ordering residents to evacuate, arresting 3 Palestinians, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 1; conducts

arrest raids, house searches in Aqabat Jabir r.c. nr. Jericho; issues military orders confiscating 8 d. of Palestinian land nr. Qalqilya for the **separation wall**. (OCHA 8/16; PCHR 8/17)

The **IDF** drops leaflets on Beirut warning residents of the capital to expect escalated bombing whose "painful and severe results will not be limited" to Hizballah targets, urging residents of 3 neighborhoods (Burj al-Barajneh, Hay Sullum, al-Shiyah) to evacuate immediately (the areas are vacant by the end of the day, with the government bussing residents without transportation to Juniyah); drops leaflets on n. Lebanon, warning truck drivers to stay off roads to Syria. Meanwhile, **Israel** asks the **U.S.** to speed delivery of M-26 artillery shells (short-range antipersonnel rockets armed with cluster munitions) along with other unspecified weapons for use against Hizballah. The **IDF** continues air and artillery strikes across Lebanon, including firing missiles at an unused radio tower in downtown Beirut; targeting traffic on roads nr. Tyre, destroying roads in the Biq'a Valley, killing at least **2 Lebanese**. Ground operations continue in s. Lebanon, reportedly focusing on areas stretching fr. Marja'uyun to al-Khiyam (with the **IDF** claiming to have taken control of Marja'uyun) and fr. Aita al-Sha'b to Bint Jubayl, leaving at least **1 IDF soldier** dead, 2 wounded nr. Qlei'a. **Hizballah** fires at least 140 rockets into n. Israel, hitting Acre, Carmiel, Dayr al-Assad (killing an **Israeli Palestinian woman, her son** and wounding 11), Haifa, Kiryat Shimona, Ma'alot, Nahariya, Safad. (WP 8/10; NYT, WP, WT 8/11; WP 8/13)

11 AUGUST

IDF gunboats off the Gaza coast shell the fmr. settlement areas of Ganei Tal, Netzer Hazani in s. Gaza, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** conducts arrest raids, house searches nr. Bethlehem and in Abu Dis, Hebron. The **IDF** also bars Palestinians under age 40 fr. Friday prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque. (OCHA 8/16; PCHR 8/17)

In the afternoon, after seeing a draft UN res. on halting violence that he says he cannot accept, **Olmert** authorizes the **IDF** to expand ground operations in s. **Lebanon**. The **IDF** quickly begins moving additional troops, armor into s. Lebanon, while troops already in Lebanon prepare to move toward the Litani. During the day, the **IDF** continues air and artillery strikes, hitting targets in s. Beirut, areas of n. Lebanon (includ-

ing Abu Diya, Akkar), s. of Sidon, and in the Biq'a Valley (including strafing some 1,300 cars evacuating some **3,000 residents of Marja'uyun**, occupied by the **IDF** on 8/10, who chose to follow a convoy of 350 **UNIFIL** and **Lebanese army** troops evacuating the area in coordination with the **IDF**; **6 Lebanese civilians, 1 Lebanese soldier** are killed and 36 are wounded). Ground operations continue in Labuna in the east, Aita al-Sha'b in central s. Lebanon, and Khiyam, Markaba, Qantara, Qlei'a further to the northeast. **Hizballah** fires 124 rockets into n. Israel, injuring 5 Israelis and targeting sites in Acre, Carmiel, Ma'alot, Nahariya, Safad, Shlomi. (AP, WP 8/11; NYT, WP, WT 8/12; NYT, WP 8/13; WP 8/24)

Late in the evening, the **UN Security Council** unanimously passes Res. 1701, calling for **Israel** and **Hizballah** to halt violence in place as of 8:00 A.M. on 8/14 local time (1:00 A.M. ET), demanding that Hizballah cease all attacks and that Israel stop offensive operations (allowing "defensive" responses if they perceive a threat). (IFM, NYT, WP, WT 8/12; NYT 8/14; NYT 8/15) (see Quarterly Update for details)

12 AUGUST

In Gaza, **IDF** troops occupy the Dahiyya airport, seal the Rafah crossing (reopened on 8/10), raze large areas of agricultural land, destroy several greenhouses and sites used by the PA security forces, blow up what it says is a smuggler's tunnel. In the West Bank, the **IDF** raids 2 hospitals in Hebron, conducts random ID checks on the streets in search of wanted Palestinians, but makes no arrests; patrols in, fires on residential areas of Azun, Jenin; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., nr. Bethlehem. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba attack Palestinian homes in Hebron. **Unidentified gunmen** shoot, wound a **PA General Intelligence officer** in Gaza City. (OCHA 8/16; PCHR 8/17)

Hizballah, the **Lebanese government** endorse UN Res. 1701, Hizballah says it will maintain its "natural right to resist" in keeping with international law as long as **IDF** troops "are practicing an occupation and acts of aggression" inside Lebanon. Meanwhile, the **IDF** continues heavy air and artillery strikes across Lebanon, mostly targeting infrastructure and roads, including destroying electricity plants nr. Sidon, a Lebanese army base in the Biq'a Valley, 2 homes nr. Bint Jubayl (killing at least 15

Lebanese civilians); air strikes are concentrated around Sidon and Tyre (cutting electricity to Tyre), in the north btwn. Akkar and Arida, and in central s. Lebanon nr. Bint Jubayl. The **IDF** also rapidly expands ground offensives in the south, sending in additional troops and artillery, with heavy clashes reported in the Bint Jubayl area, in Ghanduriyya and Dayr Sirin s. and w. of Marja'uyun, and s. of Tyre. **Hizballah** continues to fire rockets into n. Israel (hitting targets in Kiryat Shimona, Ma'alot, Safad and nearby Amirim) and downs an IDF helicopter, killing **5 IDF soldiers** (including Israel's 1st female combat fatality). The casualty toll during the day includes **24 IDF soldiers** dead (2 when an IDF tank rolls over them) and 70 wounded, and at least **26 Lebanese civilians, 1 Lebanese soldier** killed; the **IDF** claims to have killed **50 Hizballah mbrs.** in the previous 24 hrs. (al-Manar TV 8/12; NYT, WP, WT 8/13)

13 AUGUST

IDF troops inside Israel fire across the border into Gaza at Palestinian farmers working their fields nr. Bureij r.c., wounding a Palestinian woman and 12-yr.-old child. The **IDF** also shells residential areas of al-Shuka, destroying 1 **Palestinian home**. In the West Bank, the **IDF** sends troops into the industrial zone nr. Hebron, searches 20 industrial facilities, holding workers for several hrs.; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Balata r.c., Nablus and nr. Hebron, Jenin. **Jewish settlers** fr. Kiryat Arba attack Palestinian homes in Hebron for a 2d day. Nr. Jenin r.c., **Palestinian gunmen** fatally shoot a **Palestinian** whom they accuse of being a collaborator; no group takes responsibility. (PCHR 8/17)

The **Israeli cabinet** accepts (24-0, with 1 abstention) UN Res. 1701, but separately Israeli DM **Peretz** warns that "there is no situation in which Hizballah fires at [Israeli] forces that we will not retaliate," and **Israeli officials** warn that the **IDF** will continue to destroy Hizballah assets in areas it controls until those areas are handed over to the Lebanese army or UNIFIL. In anticipation of the 8/14 truce, both **Israel** and **Hizballah** intensify attacks. The **IDF** escalates air and artillery strikes, particularly on s. Beirut (leveling an area of several 100 sq. yds., including 8 apartment buildings); also hits 50 villages and towns across s. Lebanon, focusing on areas around Tyre (targeting gas stations), Ali al-Nahri in the Biqa' Valley, Tiri

in s. Lebanon; expands ground offensives in an attempt to take control of as much land as possible by the truce deadline, engaging in major clashes outside Tyre, in Aita al-Sha'b, Bint Jubayl, and Rashaf in central s. Lebanon, and in Dayr Sirin, al-Ghanduriyya, Khiyam, Qantara further northwest; shoots down 2 Hizballah drones heading for Israel. At least **20 Lebanese civilians, 2 Lebanese soldiers, 5 IDF soldiers** are killed, and 25 IDF soldiers are wounded. **Hizballah** fires 220-250 rockets into n. Israel, the most in 1 day to date, mostly targeting Haifa (killing **1 Israeli civilian**) but also hitting Kiryat Shimona, Yaara. (IFM 8/13; NYT, WP, WT 8/14; NYT 8/15)

14 AUGUST

In Gaza, the **IDF** conducts air strikes destroying the Jabaliya r.c. home of an **Islamic Jihad mbr.** accused of firing rockets into Israel (residents are warned in advance to evacuate, but 14 bystanders are injured, 11 nearby houses damaged), the Bayt Hanun home of a **PRC mbr.** thought to be holding a weapons cache (residents are warned in advance to evacuate, but 1 bystander is injured); shells a group of Palestinian civilians nr. Bayt Hanun attempting to cart away a disused rocket launcher to sell as scrap, killing **3 Palestinian civilians**, wounding 3; conducts arrest raids, house searches in al-Shuka; **Palestinians** fire **4 rockets** fr. Gaza into Israel, causing no damage or injuries. In the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in, fires on residential areas of Araba and Fahma, both nr. Jenin, deliberately damaging 35 water tanks atop homes in Fahma; conducts arrest raids, house searches in Qalqilya, nr. Jenin, in and around Hebron, Nablus; begins bulldozing 250 d. of agricultural land nr. Qalqilya for construction of the **separation wall** (see 8/10). **Jewish settlers** fr. Mitzvah Lakhish, Negohot settlements nr. Hebron (escorted by the **IDF**) bulldoze at least 100 d. of neighboring Palestinian land. **Unidentified Palestinian gunmen** (suspected **PRC mbrs.**) kidnap **2 Fox News journalists** (1 American reporter, 1 cameraman fr. New Zealand) in Gaza City; no group takes responsibility or issues demands; **Hamas** condemns the action. (WP, WT 8/15; NYT, WP 8/16; PCHR 8/17; Roadmap Risk Assessment [Jerusalem] 8/19)

Overnight, the **IDF** continues air strikes on s. Beirut and in the Biqa' Valley, killing at least **7 Lebanese**, while **Hizballah** fires rockets into n. Israel. Minutes before the

8:00 A.M. local (1:00 A.M. ET) truce deadline, violence quiets. During the day, **10,000s of Lebanese** displaced by the fighting begin returning to their homes to assess damage, although IDF warnings on vehicular movement in s. Lebanon remain in place; **1,000s of Lebanese** begin returning fr. Syria. In a televised address, **Nasrallah** promises Lebanese that Hizballah will provide funds to rebuild; on the ground Hizballah mbrs. in areas of s. Lebanon and s. Beirut take charge of clean-up and rescue efforts, with the help of Lebanese civil defense teams and army units. During the day, **Hizballah** holds its fire, whereas the **IDF** fires on groups of Hizballah mbrs. in 5 incidents, killing at least **5 Hizballah mbrs.** it claims posed an immediate threat (permissible defensive action under UN Res. 1701); flies drones around s. Lebanon, monitoring the situation. At least **5 Lebanese civilians** are killed by accidentally detonating unexploded IDF ordnance. (WP 8/14; NYT, WP, WT 8/15)

15 AUGUST

Overnight, the **IDF** sends troops into 'Askar r.c. in search of a wanted Palestinian, demolishing his family **home** and 3 nearby **homes** of relatives, wounding his sister, arresting 4 relatives, firing on stone-throwing Palestinians who confront the troops, wounding 9; a **Palestinian woman** dies of a heart attack during the raid; the wanted man is not found. Also in the West Bank, the **IDF** patrols in Zababda nr. Jenin, firing on stone-throwing youths who confront them; conducts arrest raids, house searches in and around Hebron, and nr. Bethlehem, Jenin. In Gaza, **IDF** closes

the Qarni crossing; exchanges fire with **Islamic Jihad mbrs.** nr. Khan Yunis, then moves troops into Abasan to search for the gunmen, patrolling and firing on residential areas, withdrawing late in the evening, leaving **1 Islamic Jihad mbr.** dead. Late in the evening, the **IDF** makes an air strike destroying the Khan Yunis home of an **AMB mbr.** (residents are warned in advance to leave but are given too little time; an elderly **Palestinian** and **his son** are killed, 3 Palestinians are injured, 5 nearby houses are damaged). **PA security forces** search for 2 **Fox News journalists** kidnapped in Gaza on 8/14; **Haniyeh** also appeals for their release. A **Palestinian** dies of injuries received during an 7/6 IDF attempted assassination in Jenin r.c. (NYT, WP, WT 8/16; PCHR 8/17; OCHA 8/25)

The **Israel-Lebanon** front remains relatively quiet, with **UNIFIL** confirming no breaches of the cease-fire, though the **IDF** fatally shoots **3 Hizballah mbrs.** in s. Lebanon in incidents deemed defensive. **UNIFIL** reports no significant Israeli withdrawals fr. Lebanon, though the **IDF** does pull several 100 reservists and tanks into Israel. Tens of thousands of **Lebanese civilians** continue to return to their homes in s. Lebanon, though the **IDF** drops leaflets warning them to stay away. **Hizballah** begins disbursing financial aid to displaced families to aid them in their return (reportedly allocating \$150 m. to the task); begins recording and assessing damage to personal property and infrastructure, with the aim of executing a long-term reconstruction effort. Now free to move, **relief workers** in s. Lebanon begin uncovering 10s of bodies buried in the rubble of destroyed buildings. (NYT, WT 8/15; NYT, WP, WT 8/16)

CHRONOLOGY SOURCE ABBREVIATIONS

AFP	(Agence France-Presse, Paris)
AP	(Associated Press [Internet])
BBC	(British Broadcasting Corporation World Service [Internet])
CSM	(<i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Boston)
HA	(<i>Ha'Aretz</i> [Internet], Tel Aviv)
HJ	(<i>al-Hayat al-Jadida</i> , Ramallah)
IFM	(Israeli Foreign Ministry, Jerusalem)
IMEMC	(International Middle East Media Center)
ITV	(Israel Television Network, Jerusalem)
JAZ	(al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Television, Doha)
JP	(<i>Jerusalem Post</i> [Internet], Jerusalem)
MA	(<i>Ma'ariv</i> , Tel Aviv)
MENA	(Middle East News Agency, Cairo)

- MEZ (al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, Jabaliya)
MM (*Mideast Mirror*, London)
OCHA ([United Nations] Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Weekly Briefing Notes, Jerusalem)
OSC (Open Source Center, [Internet])
NYT (*New York Times*, New York)
PCHR (Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Gaza)
PNN (Palestine News Network, Ramallah)
PSCT (Palestine Satellite Channel Television, Gaza)
REU (Reuters [Internet])
SFR (*al-Safir*, Beirut)
UNIS (United Nations Information Service, Geneva)
VOI (Voice of Israel, Jerusalem)
VOP (Voice of Palestine, Jericho)
WNC (World News Connection [Internet], Washington)
WP (*Washington Post*, Washington)
WT (*Washington Times*, Washington)
XIN (Xinhua–New China News Agency, Beijing)
YA (*Yedi'ot Abaronot*, Tel Aviv)



The southern Beirut suburbs, 14 August 2006. (Fadi Ghaloum/Reuters)